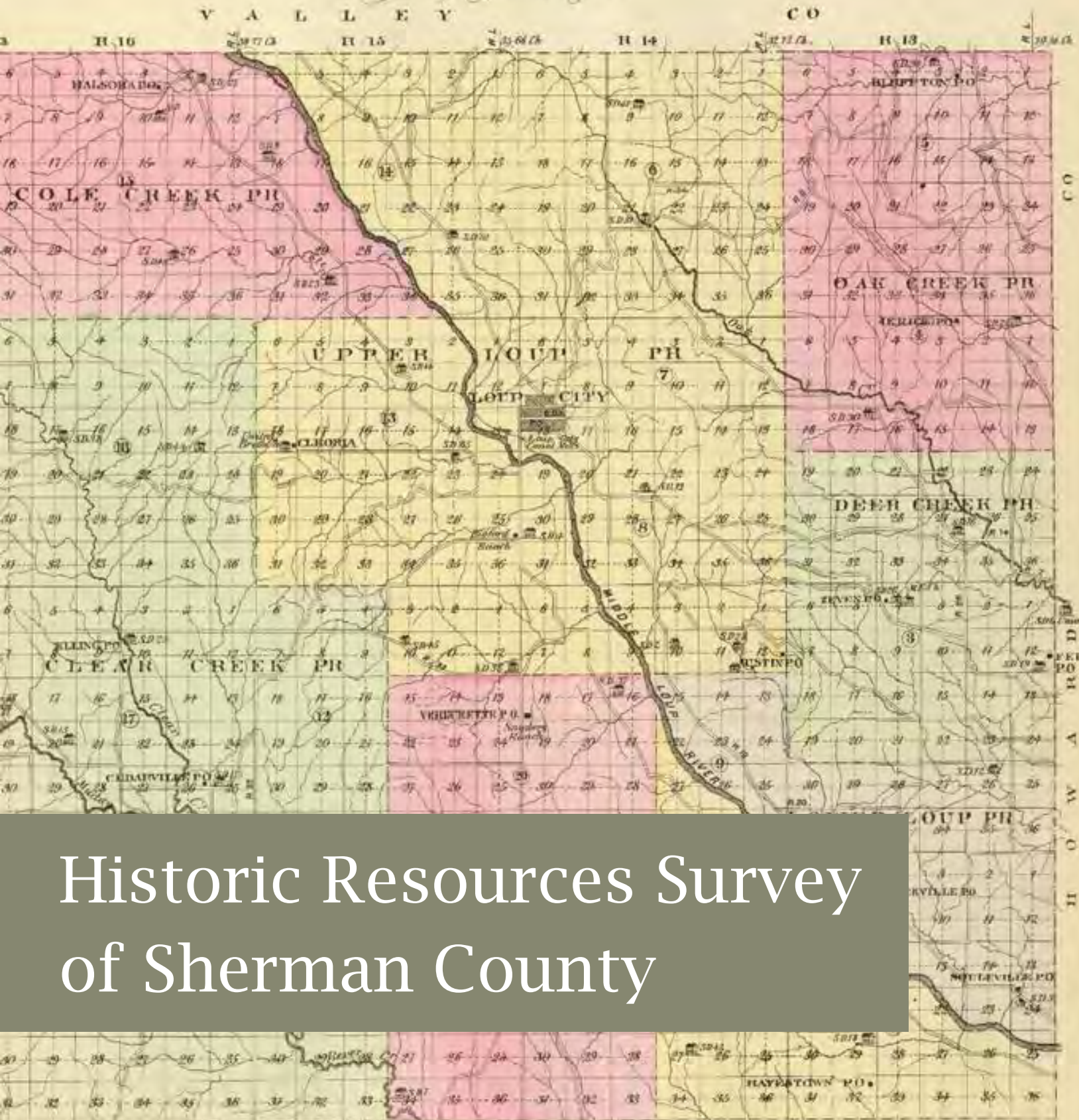


# SHERMAN CO.

Scale 1/2 Inch to 1 Mile



## Historic Resources Survey of Sherman County

I have examined the above Map of Sherman County  
and find it to be very carefully and accurately compiled

July 12th 1884.

Ex. County Surveyor

### TABLE OF EXPLANATIONS

TOWNSHIP LINES	ROAD DISTRICTS
SECTION LINES	SCHOOL DISTRICTS
QUARTER SECTION LINES	CEMETERIES
RAIL ROADS	MARSHES
RAIL ROADS INCOMPLETE	STREAMS
PUBLIC ROADS	POST OFFICES

# Historic Resources Survey of Sherman County

Prepared for:



Nebraska State Historical Society

Prepared by:



HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP, INC.

Historic Resources Group, Inc.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

May 2018

The Nebraska State Historical Society contracted with Historic Resources Group, Inc. to prepare this report on the reconnaissance survey of historic resources in Sherman County, Nebraska. The report is authored by Melissa Dirr Gengler and Anne Bauer.

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office with the cooperation of the Nebraska State Historical Society administer the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory (NeHRSI) projects. The NeHRSI is funded in part with the assistance of a federal grant from the United States Department of the Interior a division of the National Park Service. However, the contents and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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Historic photographs within the report are used courtesy of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation office unless otherwise indicated.

# Executive Summary

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) contracted with Historic Resources Group, Inc. (HRG) to conduct reconnaissance level survey of Sherman County for the Nebraska Historic Resources Survey and Inventory (NeHRSI). The survey was conducted in the late Fall of 2017 and documented properties that possess historic or architectural significance in addition to those properties previously included in survey within Sherman County. At the time of the survey a total of 445 properties were included in the existing record at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO), and each of these properties were re-evaluated as part of this undertaking. An additional 61 properties were added to the NeHRSI during field survey. A total of 506 individual properties were evaluated across the county and included in the Sherman County Survey.

Minimum survey requirements for the Sherman County Survey include those properties that may be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). This includes properties approximately 50 years old or older, properties that retain their physical integrity, and properties with historic significance. Three properties within the county have been entered in the National Register including the Sherman County Courthouse, Loup City Township Carnegie Library, and the Frederick Hotel; all of which are in Loup City. No archeological sites were evaluated as part of this survey effort. National Register eligible properties are identified, and several areas of further study are documented in the report.

HRG would like to thank Patrick Haynes and Jill Dolberg at the NeSHPO, the staff of the NSHS archives, and the Sherman County Historical Society.



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# Historic Overview

## Overview Description

Sherman County is near the center of the state and is bounded on the north by Valley County, on the east by Howard County, on the south by Buffalo County, and on the west by Custer County. The county is twenty-four (24) by twenty-four (24) miles square, comprised of a four (4) by four (4) grid of thirty-six (36) square-mile legal townships. It has five major highways including Nebraska Highway 2, Nebraska Highway 10, Nebraska Highway 58, Ne-

braska Highway 68, and Nebraska Highway 92.

The Middle Loup River crosses diagonally from northwest to southeast dividing the county. Other important waterways include Clear Creek, Mud Creek, and Oak Creek.<sup>1</sup> The fertile soil and plentiful water supply made the area a prime location for early farmers. Irrigation further enhanced the county's agricultural economy when it first appeared in 1895. Bureau of Reclamation constructed an earthen dam in 1961 on Oak Creek for flood control and irrigation purposes. Today, the Sherman County Reservoir is owned and operated by the local Farwell Irrigation District and the Loup Basin Reclamation District and serves extensive recreational activities in the county.

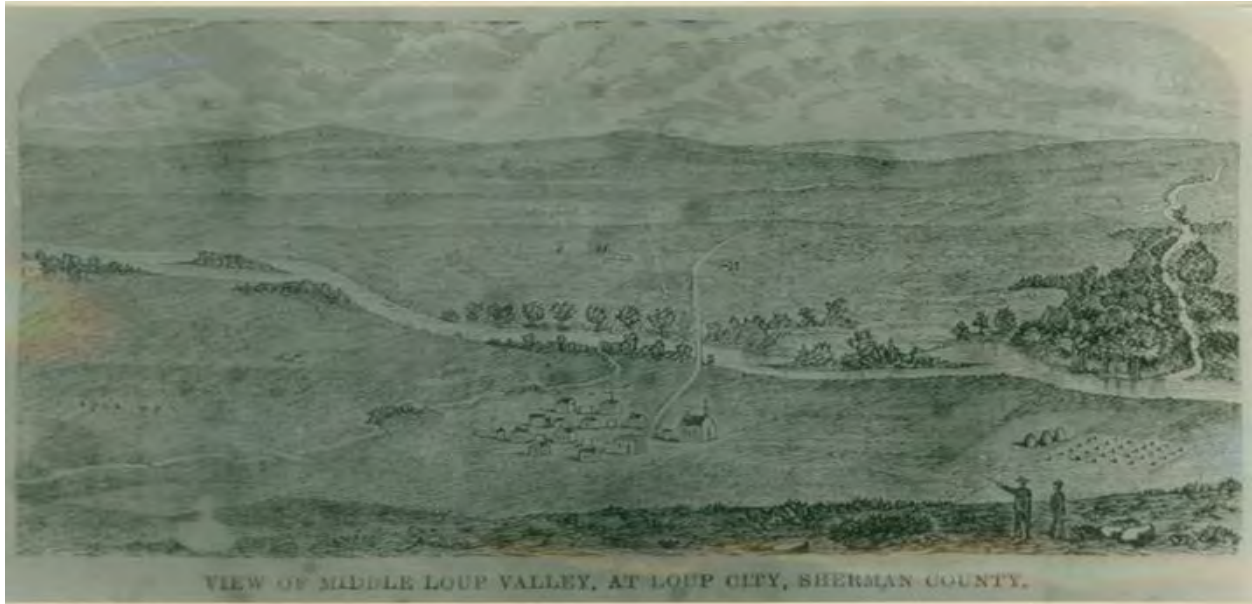
## Landscape

Sherman County is located in the Loess Hills geographic region of Central Nebraska as defined by the *Nebraska Historic Resource and Survey Inventory Manual* (2010 Edition). The landscape of the region



Figure 1. Location of Sherman County, Nebraska.





February 1884 Lithograph from "The Heart of Our Continent." View of Middle Loup Valley at Loup City, Nebraska. Photo courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society

is primarily one of dissected plains dominated by the greater Loup River drainage. The Middle Loup River roughly bisects the country from northwest to southeast. The secondary drainages of Oak Creek to the northeast and Mud Creek to the southwest drain parallel to the Middle Loup. The level flood plain of the Middle Loup and the upper plains support irrigated crop production while the slopes of the dissected plains are primarily used for livestock pasture. Annual precipitation averages about 26.74 inches per year.<sup>2</sup>



Conrad and Grace Ernst house near Litchfield from 1911. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

The well drained valleys within Sherman County have supported human subsistence for centuries. The Itskari (or Loup River) culture of the Central Plains tradition inhabited the Loup River system from about AD 1000 to AD 1300. This tradition is characterized by some of the earliest farming villages. They built earthen lodges on the natural terraces of rivers and creeks, cultivated early crops, and perfected the use of the bow and arrow.<sup>3</sup> It wasn't until centuries later that the nomadic horse-centric Plains tribes such as the Pawnee arrived central Nebraska.<sup>4</sup>

## Population Statistics

Sherman County is named for General William Tecumseh Sherman, a noted Civil War general. Loup City was established in 1871, later organized in 1873, and has served as the county seat since its founding. The county has a total area of 572 square miles, 5.8 square miles of surface water. The broad open expanses of the county are reflected in the population density with ap-

**Table 1.** Sherman County Historical Population (1880-2010) and Percentage Change.

Year	Population*	Change
1880	2,061	
1890	6,399	210.5 % increase
1900	6,550	2.4% increase
1910	8,278	26.4% increase
1920	8,877	7.2% increase
1930	9,122	2.8% increase
1940	7,764	14.9% decrease
1950	6,421	17.3% decrease
1960	5,382	16.2% decrease
1970	4,725	12.2 % decrease
1980	4,226	10.6% decrease
1990	3,718	12% decrease
2000	3,318	5% decrease
2010	3,152	5% decrease

\*Taken from United States Census Bureau statistics.

proximately 5.6 people per square mile. According to the 2000 census residents with Polish ancestry comprised 29.6% of the total Sherman County population, a vast majority.<sup>5</sup> In 2010 the population of Sherman County was 3,152.

## Settlement and Expansion During the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Sherman County originated from a small group of early settlers lead by Cyrus Benschoter, Martin Renschoter and William Benschoter who petitioned the state government for county organization on April 1, 1873. From their home base in Grand Island the group organized, named, and located the county seat at Loup City. They held the first election to secure the necessary regulatory positions including County Clerk, Judge, Treasurer, Sheriff, Surveyor, Coroner, School Superintendent and



Stacking alfalfa hay north of Litchfield, c. 1910. Photo courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society

County Commissioners. In the winter of 1873 the only other presence in the area was a log cabin built to house and support a timber business on Oak Creek.

The fragile settlement suffered during a severe snowstorm in April 1873, when three days of blowing snow clustered the early settlers under one roof to survive. A significant loss of livestock and horses resulted from the storm and Dead Horse Run, a creek near Loup City was named to commemorate these losses. Upon the arrival of milder Spring weather families of the early settlers arrived and helped to stabilize the community. By September, seven log houses were built and C.E. Rosseter opened the first hotel and boarding house. Within a year the area surrounding Loup City saw its first frame houses constructed, established a newspaper, constructed a school, and built a bridge across the Loup River. Land was cultivated for agricultural crops and the courthouse at Loup City was completed by 1874 at a cost of \$5,000. Tragically, the new courthouse burned on its opening day, stirring suspicions of arson.

Settling Sherman County during the decade of the 1870s was fraught with chal-



This rural one room school represents early educational patterns in Sherman County. Not extant (SM00-011) Photo taken during NeSHPO field survey in 1983.

lenges. Natural disasters such as the grasshopper plague, blizzards, and hot dry summers were partnered with economic fear from a nationwide panic. Agricultural prices plummeted, many farmers could not find a market for their crops, and populations dwindled or stagnated. Tales of the grasshopper infestation are found throughout the area and were documented as if, “ominous black clouds descended upon the pioneer farms and literally ate everything in sight.”<sup>6</sup> Residents in Sherman County were assisted by the Nebraska Relief and Aid Society established by Governor Furnas in 1874 to support the needy across the state. Railroads delivered supplies free of charge for disbursement across the state along with large quantities of surplus army clothing, rations, and equipment. To encourage and retain settlement in Sherman County and rural Nebraska, the Grange Movement provided funds to purchase seed and distribute it to those in need. The goal was to further crop development in areas devastated by weather and grasshoppers and to respond to the economic downturn at the time.<sup>7</sup> The economy began to turn and additional good luck followed when in 1876 a trail to the Black Hills through Sherman



Grain elevator at Ashton, July 1928. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

County brought a transient population who sought success in the gold rush.

In the following years the weather cycle improved, and farms became more prosperous. This along with railroad expansion and regulation resulted in a population and settlement boom across Sherman County and the state. The Sherman County Courthouse in Loup City was rebuilt, partially using delinquent railroad taxes, and completed in 1878. Most settlers in Sherman County were American citizens from eastern states, however there were concentrations Germans and Poles in different parts of the county. By the mid-to-late 1870s, Andreas’ History of Nebraska claimed of Sherman



Litchfield High School in the 1920s. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society





The former Ashton railroad depot was relocated to a field and used for storage (SM00-002) No longer extant. Photo from 1979 field survey by NeSHPO

County that, “The prospects are good, and there are in the county about ten thousand head of cattle, five thousand six hundred head of sheep, and a large number of hogs.”<sup>8</sup> During the 1870s fraternal, religious, and social organizations bolstered the foundation of the county providing social outlets for its residents.

Transportation throughout the county during the 1870s and 1880s was limited to lanes, gravel roads, and farm trails. A private stage line was the only organized



Portion of 1915 Nebraska Railway Commission map showing railroad service in Sherman County.

transportation available between Loup City and Kearney when the Union Pacific Railroad arrived in Loup City from Kearney in May of 1886. It was followed by the Burlington Railroad in October 1887. This opened the area to services, immigrants, access to goods, daily mail, and competitive transportation rates. After construction of the rail lines much of the over 160,000 acres of land tied up in railroad ownership was opened for settlement, surveyed, and sold. This available land brought immigrants from Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, England, and Scotland to Sherman County.

This population growth resulted in an increase in the number of new farms. To support the crops and stabilize impacts from unpredictable weather, irrigation canals were established throughout the county. The first canal was built in 1895 when a ditch was dug between Arcadia and Loup City and water was diverted from the Loup River to support farming. This early system became the basis for the expansive system present today. Eventually, the Middle Loup Power and Irrigation Company was created in 1932 to manage irrigation features throughout the county and ultimately to build Sherman Dam and Reservoir.<sup>9</sup>



Bridge on a new county road in Sherman County. Bridge by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1935.



Loup City from 1914 looking west on O Street from approximately 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society.

## Development During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

From its founding to the turn of the twentieth century, Sherman County grew considerably. The small clans clustered around Oak Creek and the Middle Loup River fortified their roots, and expanded their families. The population grew from 2,061 residents in 1880 to 6,550 residents by 1900.<sup>10</sup> Fertile soil, stable local economies, and available transportation routes contributed to the prosperity. The five communities of Ashton, Hazard, Loup City, Litchfield, and Rockville thrived with growing businesses and diverse economies. Banks were established throughout the county, service industries grew, fraternal and social organizations were on the rise, religious institutions expanded, and crops were prospering. Public improvements converted board sidewalks to paved sidewalks, expanded sewer

and water supply systems, established formalized rural mail delivery, and expanded rural public power.

The Good Roads Movement had a significant impact in Sherman County and across Nebraska. Founded by bicycle enthusiasts in 1880, a resurgence occurred with the popularity of the automobile. Ford automobiles were brought from factories in Omaha



Service station in Hazard. (SM02-015) No longer extant.



to local dealers in the county. In 1917, the state of Nebraska adopted provisions of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1916 to construct an organized system of state highways. In April 1919 the legislature approved a state highway system to connect all Nebraska county seats which incorporated approximately 5,600 miles of road. In Sherman County these were Highways 10, 58, and 92. Grading, graveling and adding ditches and other safety features eased personal transportation throughout the county.

The Potash Highway was one of the early named Highways in the state. Plans for the highway from 1917 identified the need for a regional road from Alliance in the west to Grand Island in the east. The route generally paralleled the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad between the two communities. It was named for the natural resource potash which was found in the area. Potash is an industrial product that was an important component in manufacturing fertilizer. The name was not the most popular, especially as the potash industry diminished after World War I, however the name was



A modern farm house equipped with electric light, running water, and furnace in Ashton. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society.



View of downtown Hazard taken during Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office survey in 1978.

deeply ingrained with the roadway and was never changed.

By the 1920s and 1930s road improvements included oil sand surfacing of the gravel, some asphalt, and convenience and comfort stations across the road system. These included service and gas stations like one in Hazard, rest areas, and retail outlets. By 1926 the road was incorporated into Nebraska Highway 2, and it was extended south from Grand Island to Hastings. It also connected with the Meridian Highway (US 83). It not only served the residents of Sherman County, but tourists traveling to the Black Hills in South Dakota.<sup>11</sup>

Established roads, public services including water and power, and growing businesses provided a stable economy in the county. Prior to 1920 during World War I, a strong surge of patriotism and support thrived in the county. To support the war efforts each county in the state organized various societies to raise funds and products. Sherman County ranked 7<sup>th</sup> among the 93 counties in Nebraska in their efforts and the number of support organizations formed. Area women lead many of these groups and roused the public to fervently support the American war efforts. It was during this time period



Wiggle Creek Consolidated School House, south of Loup City, July 1926. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

when many schools ceased teaching foreign languages. This was the case in Sherman County with communities such as Ashton and Litchfield with high Polish, Danish, and Swedish populations. In fact in Ashton many young men were so anxious to serve they enlisted in the Polish army while waiting for American forces to organize.<sup>12</sup>

Following the war, the decade of the 1920s saw the peak of Sherman County population with 9,122 people residing there by 1930. However, the stock market crashed in 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression hit Sherman County hard. Farms failed, drought and sand storms ruined crop yields, and unemployment reduced the population numbers. In December 1934, the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA) through the Nebraska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation established a cooperative farming resettlement to help 10 farm families regain self-sufficiency. The Loup City Farmsteads cooperative was built on 332 acres of land about 4 miles northwest of Loup City. Ten families with farming backgrounds were chosen from the Sherman County relief roles and given a 4-acre indi-

vidual parcel, while they cooperatively farmed the remainder. Families raised potatoes, tomatoes, and onions, and each given two cows, 100 hens, and 300 chicks. The cooperative tract was cultivated in corn, sorghum, barley and alfalfa with 75 acres reserved as pasture.<sup>13</sup> There were eight resettlement farmsteads created in Nebraska and they lasted until the early 1940s. FERA also contributed to road improvements throughout the county and constructed numerous bridges and culverts.

Other public work projects funded by the federal government are evident throughout the county and can be seen in public buildings such as the fairgrounds in Loup City. By 1940, the county population dropped by almost 15% and this trend would continue through the following decades.

## Post-World War II Development in Sherman County

One of the most significant developments and watershed events that impacted Sherman County was the construction of a dam as part of the Flood Control Act of 1944. The dam was originally authorized as part of the Farwell Unit within the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program which was a comprehensive program sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers to control and develop the waters of the Missouri River and its tributaries including the Loup River and Oak Creek. Part of the original proposed system identified a need for diverting water from the Middle Loup River at the Arcadia Diversion Dam, then transporting water through the Sherman Feeder Canal to store in the Sherman County Reservoir. The water could then be distributed to project lands through a series of canals constructed



throughout the county.<sup>14</sup> The Bureau of Reclamation began surveys to locate the dam and reservoir on Oak Creek in 1947 with the intent to locate a suitable site based on area topography. Though the location was identified, the area is heavy with loess soil and Sherman Dam became the first dam designed and constructed by the Bureau completely on a loessial foundation.

In 1959 J. A. Tobin Construction in Kansas City was awarded approximately \$2.15 million to construct the dam within 900 days. Dam construction was completed in June 1961. Following construction of the dam the distribution canals and laterals were built for the Farwell Unit. This distribution system consisted of three primary and two secondary canals which totaled 114 miles with 265 miles of laterals. Construction began on the main canals in 1961 and was completed by 1963. The entirety of the system was



Sherman County Reservoir (SM00-129)

completed by 1966, however water was supplied to the county as early as June 1963 when 63 distinct farm units received water to irrigate their lands. Though the Bureau of Reclamation managed construction of the system, they turned over responsibility of all features of the Farwell Unit to Loup Basin Reclamation District in 1966. Crop values of

**Table 2.** Sherman County Census Population (1880-2000) by Community.

Census Year	County	Ashton	Hazard	Litchfield	Loup City	Rockville
1880	2,061	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1890	6,399	N/A	N/A	N/A	671	N/A
1900	6,550	251	N/A	240	826	158
1910	8,278	404	N/A	403	1,128	201
1920	8,877	397	167	428	1,364	208
1930	9,122	435	148	404	1,446	241
1940	7,764	488	142	412	1,675	233
1950	6,421	381	130	337	1,508	164
1960	5,382	320	104	264	1,415	153
1970	4,725	277	72	248	1,456	114
1980	4,226	273	75	256	1,368	116
1990	3,718	251	78	314	1,104	122
2000	3,318	237	66	280	996	111

Census data taken from *Nebraska Historical Population Report*, 2007. DigitalCommons@UNO



Farwell District Irrigation Canal in Sherman County, SM00-130



View of Ashton, July 1926. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

over \$273 million since its completion puts the Farwell Unit among the top ranked units in the Pick-Sloan system.<sup>15</sup>

Farwell Unit system development played an important role in maintaining the population in the region. It succeeded in stemming the outward migration of people from the region and on top of the significant benefits of the irrigation system to crops, it also introduced a recreation and entertainment industry to the county.

Though the main purpose of the dam and reservoir is for irrigation it contributes to flood control and the ancillary industries associated with the recreational activities.<sup>16</sup>

## Community Histories

Table 2 illustrates the evolution of community populations in the five communities within Sherman County. A brief history of each community follows.

### Ashton

The town of Ashton is located ten miles east of Loup City near the eastern border of Sherman County. It was chosen as a station for the Lincoln & Black Hills Railroad (later the Burlington & Missouri) being halfway between Farwell and Loup City. By the time

the Lincoln Townsite Company platted the town in 1887, the community was already well-established, boasting all the necessary community-building services: a brick yard, lumber yard, grain elevator, hotel, livery stables, two general stores, and a real estate office. Soon after, the school and post office were relocated from the nearby German settlement of Zeven.<sup>17</sup> Ashton was named for the Illinois home town of Mr. J.P. Taylor.

While settlers from various European countries populated this area of Sherman County, Ashton claims the Polish were its predominant ethnic population, although the Germans who relocated from Zeven established a German brotherhood organization and hall. Ashton's population continued to grow, reaching 251 by 1900. The turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought additional community improvements with sidewalks, brick commercial buildings, a cement block factory, as well as telephone, electric lights, a fire department, and water works in the first few decades.<sup>18</sup> A new frame school, churches, and additional hotels marked the growth of the community. As the automobile era arrived, Ashton had a Ford agency, garages, and several filling stations, two of which book-ended the businesses on Center Street.



One of a pair of matching gas stations that book end the main commercial strip in Ashland. Located at 405 Center it was built in 1928 to serve the burgeoning automobile industry.

Despite the hard years of the Great Depression, Ashton's population peaked in 1940 with 488 people. Since World War II, the town has seen a steady decline with an estimated 2016 population of 189 people.

**Table 3.** Ashton Population, 1900-2000

Census Year	Ashton
1900	251
1910	404
1920	397
1930	435
1940	488
1950	381
1960	320
1970	277
1980	273
1990	251
2000	237

## Hazard

The town of Hazard is in southern Sherman County along Mud (or Muddy) Creek. It was

established along the Grand Island and Wyoming Central Railroad line from Grand Island to Alliance Nebraska in 1886. The land for the town site was deed by the Lincoln Land Company to Amelia and Edward Munn June 5, 1886.<sup>19</sup> The origin of the town's name is uncertain, but many attribute it to a sign warning railroad engineers of a swampy or marshy hazard along the tracks at this point while others believe a man named Hazzard drilled the first well for use by the railroad.<sup>20</sup>

While the town was primarily an agricultural community, the Chicago Burlington and Quincy served as an important commerce and transportation link connecting Hazard to Grand Island and eastern Nebraska. The CB&Q operated six passenger trains daily on the line during its peak in the 1930s. Passenger traffic eventually ended in 1969. The Burlington Northern laid a second track in 1985.<sup>21</sup>

The first post office in the area was established as Bentora on the George Bent farm in 1882. Edward Munn purchased the post office and moved it to Hazard in 1887.<sup>22</sup> The office moved among several buildings in town before finding a permanent home in the former Capellen schoolhouse moved to Market Street in 1957.



General view of Hazard. July 1926. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

Hazard's first school district organized in 1882 as school District 32. School was held in a sod house or soddie east of the later town site. The first school erected in the town of Hazard was a one-room frame building around 1900. An L-addition was added in 1924 to create a full high school that included normal training; its first class graduated in 1925. The district continued to hold a full high school until the 1947-48 school year when it experimented with eliminating 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. A full high school resumed the following year, before the district later voted in 1950 to become a Class 1 district, eliminating 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades due to rising costs and stricter state laws.<sup>23</sup> The frame school was torn down and replaced with the current one-story brick school in 1965.<sup>24</sup>

Commerce in Hazard developed along the two blocks of Market Street between Clinton and Jerrold Streets. At one time Hazard boasted two banks, three grocery stores, two cafes, a hotel, pool hall, drug store, hardware, telephone office, and an opera house.<sup>25</sup>

**Table 4.** Hazard Population, 1920-2000

Census Year	Hazard
1900	N/A
1910	N/A
1920	167
1930	148
1940	142
1950	130
1960	104
1970	72
1980	75
1990	78
2000	66

Fires during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century destroyed much of the business district.

Hazard's population peaked around 167 citizens with the 1920 census. Sixty-eight citizens reside in Hazard according to population estimates as of 2016.<sup>26</sup>

## Litchfield

The first clustered settlement near Litchfield centered around a grist mill erected in 1882 on Mud (or Muddy) Creek at the Sherman and Custer County line. Along with a blacksmith shop and general store, the location served as the hub of commerce for the surrounding farmers.<sup>27</sup> In the spring of 1886 the Lincoln Townsite Company platted the town of Litchfield a few miles to the southeast along the Grand Island and Wyoming Central Railroad Line as it was laid up the Mud Creek valley in southwestern Sherman County.

Once Litchfield was platted, the post office located at Cedarville, two miles to the east, was moved to town by a Mr. Campbell.<sup>28</sup> Commerce in Litchfield grew rapidly in its first year. In 1886 alone, the town saw the opening of a bank, newspaper, blacksmith,



View of Litchfield, July 1926. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society





View of downtown Litchfield, 1983.

barber, grain elevator, two hotels, doctor's office, general store, livery, hardware and farm implement dealers among the dozens of new businesses.<sup>29</sup> The grist mill moved in 1889 to a location on Mud Creek just south of Litchfield and renamed the Litchfield Flour Mill.<sup>30</sup> The mill pond became a center for recreational activities on Muddy Creek until the mill closed in the 1920s.

The turn of the century brought an opera house (1906), the Ravenna Creamery (1906), cafes and then later automobile-oriented businesses and services: auto repair (1913), garage and tire sales (1915), and filling stations (late 1910s to 1920s). Litchfield also boasted a Ford agency (1910), an Overland and REO dealer (1910), and Dodge and Chevrolet dealers (1917).<sup>31</sup>

School for Litchfield children was held in settlers' sod homes and other temporary locations until 1888, when a two-story frame school was constructed in the town of Litchfield.<sup>32</sup> It wasn't until 1899 when the school was organized into eight grades. By 1901, the school contained ten grades, but students who pursued a high school diploma had to attend high school elsewhere. By 1915 the town passed a bond to build a new school to include high school classes. By

**Table 5.** Litchfield Population, 1900-2000

Census Year	Litchfield
1900	240
1910	403
1920	428
1930	404
1940	412
1950	337
1960	264
1970	248
1980	256
1990	314
2000	280

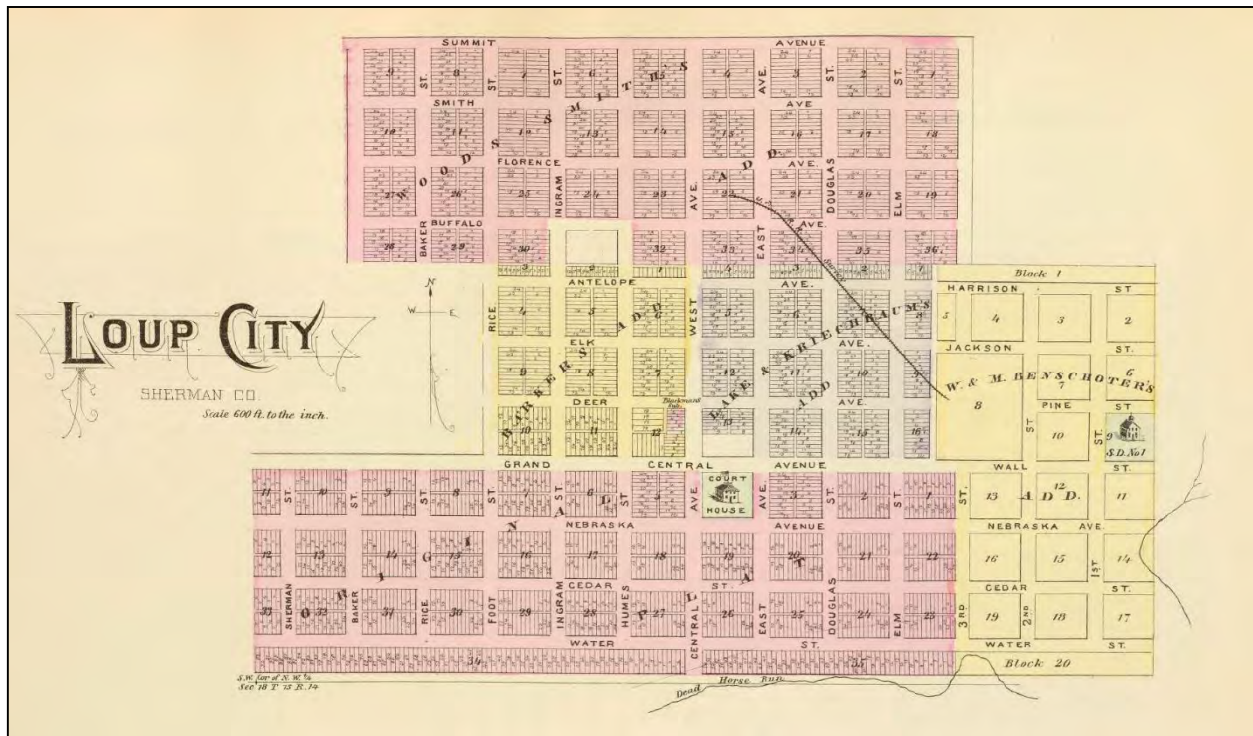
1918, the first senior graduated from Litchfield.<sup>33</sup>

## Loup City

Earliest settlement in the vicinity of Loup City occurred in 1872-1873. Once Sherman County was formed in 1873, Martin and William Benschoter platted Loup City to serve as the county seat.<sup>34</sup> The newly formed county commission awarded the Benschoter brothers the contract to construct the first courthouse in 1874, but that building burned before it was accepted by the com-



View of Loup City Nebraska December 1908. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society.



1885 Kirk and Everts Map of Loup City. Image courtesy Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office files.

missioners. The second, brick courthouse was completed in 1878 using the remaining walls of the first.<sup>35</sup>

Loup City's growth was sporadic over the first few years and was officially incorporated in 1881. The town was well-established by the time the Union Pacific Railroad line extended to Loup City in 1886.

It was followed by the Burlington & Missouri in the fall of 1887.<sup>36</sup> Both lines lasted nearly a century before UP discontinued service in 1985 and Burlington Northern abandoned its tracks in 1986.<sup>37</sup>



View of downtown Loup City, 1983. Photo courtesy of State Historic Preservation Office survey files.

Table 6. Loup City Population, 1890-2000	
Census Year	Loup City
1890	671
1900	826
1910	1,128
1920	1,364
1930	1,446
1940	1,675
1950	1,508
1960	1,415
1970	1,456
1980	1,368
1990	1,104
2000	996

## Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

In addition to the seat of government, Loup City was the center of for processing of the county's agricultural goods. The town boasted a roller mill that produced flour and the Ravenna Creamery processed butter, cream, and poultry for decades as one of the larger employers in Loup City. Three elevators served the corn markets and stockyards transferred 150 cars of cattle and 135 cars of hogs (1906 figures).<sup>38</sup>

By 1920, county government had outgrown the courthouse and a levy was passed for the construction of a new courthouse. The new two-story courthouse was built of brick

and terra cotta in a simplified Beaux Arts style.

In addition to being the seat of county governance, Loup City also provided other community services such as library, hospital, recreation, as well as a bustling retail center. The Women's Unity Club sought and received a Carnegie Library grant, and the building was officially dedicated in 1917.<sup>39</sup> Dr. Carl Amick began the first hospital in 1926 in a private home before constructing a dedicated hospital building in 1937. It was later run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis and renamed Sacred Heart Hospital.<sup>43</sup> Loup City remains

### Mother Bloor/Loup City Riot

On Flag Day, June 14, 1934 hundreds of farmers gathered on the lawn of the Sherman County Courthouse in Loup City. A radical group of farm agitators lead by Mother Ella Reeve Bloor, a notorious Communist party activist to organize a protest as part of the rise of the Midwest Farm Holiday movement. This movement was an attempt to withhold farm commodities from the open market to manipulate and raise market prices. Farmers would organize and gather to picket along highways near major farm markets including Sioux City and Des Moines Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska. Political barkers would often raise spirits and invoke violence among the crowds.

In Loup City the issues was inflamed by competing newspapers with opposing points of view. The Loup City Peoples Standard supported the effort while the Sherman County Times criticized it as "Red and UnAmerican."<sup>40</sup> Mother Bloor traveled the area, attended conferences and participated in gatherings throughout the community touting the beliefs of the movement. Combined with the conflicting newspaper views and the Flag Day gathering in 1934 violence broke out in the crowd among protestors and a local vigilante group. The flash of violence ended abruptly and Mother Bloor was convicted for her part in the violence and served 30 days in the women's section of the Omaha jail.<sup>41</sup>



*Flag Day 1934 Protest at Loup City. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society.*



## Jenner Park

Jenner Park lies on the eastern edge of Loup City and was created by Englishman Henry Jenner and his brother Robert. In 1940, the brothers utilized the natural amphitheater along Dead Horse Creek to create a play area for Henry's children. As more improvements were made, the Jenners welcomed the entire community to use the park. Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park as it was later called, served as the showcase for the artifacts and animals brought back from the Jenners' world travels.

The Egyptian Mummy House (or Mummy Cave) housed mummified Indian and animal remains from Egypt as well as the Americas. Live animals, both native and non-native were housed in cages. A pavilion housed dances in addition to more artifacts. The grounds contained gardens, fountains, and children's play grounds. One of the most popular rides was the Ocean Wave, or circle swing which could accommodate 40 riders.<sup>42</sup> The park remained a major attraction until the 1940s when Robert Jenner died and the Jenner children did not wish to continue the endeavor. The only evidence of the once-exotic attraction are the stone entrance arches.



*Jenner Park in Loup City, July 1926. Photo courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society*

the largest community in Sherman County today and serves as a regional hub for government functions, healthcare, and commerce.

## Rockville

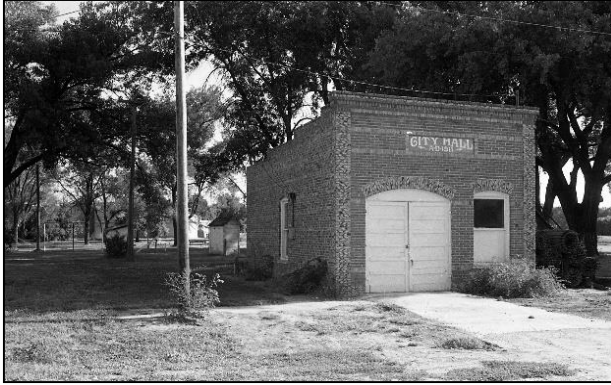
The town of Rockville lies approximately 14 miles southeast of Loup City where Rock Creek flows into the Middle Loup River in the southeastern corner of Sherman County. The earliest homesteaders settled in the vicinity as early as 1872. The settlers were granted a post office in 1873 and it named Rockville for Rock Creek, after previous suggestions were rejected by the state.

The Union Pacific constructed its line through Rockville in 1886. The line through Rockville to Loup City was officially dedicated June 4, 1886, with a large gala and free excursion train from St. Paul. The rail-

road was a vital link for Rockville's agricultural products to reach eastern markets, and a stockyard was soon built near the depot for livestock waiting shipment. By 1887,

**Table 7.** Rockville Population, 1900-2000

Census Year	Rockville
1900	158
1910	201
1920	208
1930	241
1940	233
1950	164
1960	153
1970	114
1980	116
1990	122
2000	111



Rockville City Hall. (SM05-006) 1983 photo from Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office survey.

Rockville was officially incorporated originally containing four and one-half sections to ensure enough citizens for incorporation.

Also influential to Rockville's growth was the crossing at the Middle Loup. A wooden bridge was constructed as early as 1886. A steel bridge was eventually built in 1907, but became damaged by flooding in 1912. A temporary swinging pedestrian bridge had to be installed while the repairs were made.

Commercial development centered primarily south of the railroad tracks along Ley Street, while the school, St. Mary's Catholic church and cemetery, as well as a residential area grew north of the tracks. At its peak, the commercial district boasted several businesses including two banks, two hotels, three cream stations, two general stores, a doctor, photography studio, drug-store, and pool hall. Throughout its history Rockville has remained a small, quiet town providing service and market for the surrounding agricultural community.

## Former towns

Many homesteaders formed additional clustered settlements within the county, usually centered around a rural schoolhouse, church, and may even have been granted a post office. While several persisted for close

to a decade or more, once the railroad lines established their stations by the late 1880s, these settlements joined with the nearest village or disappeared altogether. These former towns include Austin (1877-1919), Divide (1886-1906), Hayestown (1877-1899), and Willemschoe/Zeven (1879-1888).

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> William Cutler, Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska, The Western Historical Company, Chicago, Illinois: A.T. Andreas Proprietor, 1882.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usclimatedata.com>. Accessed 3-15-2018.

<sup>3</sup> Bozell, Rob and John Ludwickson. Lower Platte Archaeology, Native Americans AD 1000 -1400. *Explore Nebraska Archaeology No. 2*. Lincoln, Neb: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Nebraska's First Farmers: Migration of Prehistoric Tribes. <http://www.nebraskastudies.org> Accessed 2-23-2108.

<sup>5</sup> Quick Facts, Sherman County, Nebraska United States Census Bureau, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) accessed 1-9-2018.

<sup>6</sup> James C. Olson and Ronald C. Naugle, History of Nebraska, Third Edition, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1997. 176.

<sup>7</sup> History Now, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org) accessed 1-22-2018. The Grange Movement or Patrons of Husbandry was founded in 1867 to advance the methods of agriculture and promote social and economic needs of farmers in the United States.

<sup>8</sup> Andreas, "Progress and Prosperity" Section I. [www.kancoll.org](http://www.kancoll.org).

<sup>9</sup> Andreas, "Progress and Prosperity".

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>11</sup> Slattery, Christina, et al., *Historic and Architectural Resources of the Potash Highway in Nebraska* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2014.

<sup>12</sup> *Ashton Centennial*, 1889-1989.

<sup>13</sup> Farm Security Administration, *Facts about Loup City Farmsteads*.

<sup>14</sup> Wm. Joe Simonds, The Farwell Unit, Middle Loup Division Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Bureau of Reclamation History Program, Denver, Colorado, 1996. Reformatted, reedited and reprinted, by Andrew H. Gahan, 2013. 3

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>16</sup> William Joe Simonds, The Farwell Unit, 12.

<sup>17</sup> Graff, Our Towns.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>19</sup> Criffield, Ola. *Wheels of Time: A Centennial History of Hazard, Nebraska, 1886-1986*. Pp. 24-25.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, p. 8.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, p. 25.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, p. 26.

<sup>23</sup> *The Kearney Daily Hub*, June 25, 1948. To Resume School; *The Kearney Daily Hub*, June 17, 1950. Hazard Votes to Have Only Eight Grade School.

<sup>24</sup> Criffield, Ola. *Wheels of Time: A Centennial History of Hazard, Nebraska, 1886-1986*, p. 29.

<sup>25</sup> Nebraska, Our Towns: Central & North Central, p. 185.

<sup>26</sup> United States Census Bureau, 2016 estimates, [www.population.us/ne/hazard](http://www.population.us/ne/hazard)

<sup>27</sup> A Centennial History of Litchfield, Nebraska 1886-1986, p. 10. 1986. Thelma Lang and Ed and Jan Kirkpatrick, eds.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, p. 12.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 11-24.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, p. 8.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, p. 15.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, p. 34.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*, p. 36.

<sup>34</sup> Benschoter, George E. *Book of Facts Concerning the Early Settlement of Sherman County, 1873-1897*. Pp. 5-6.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, p. 8.

<sup>36</sup> Our Towns, p 180.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid*, p 180.

<sup>38</sup> Cooley, H.O., ed. *The Nebraska Magazine*. No. 3, Oct 1907. Pp. 11.

<sup>39</sup> Loup City, *Celebrating 125 Years, 2006 Yearbook*. Pp. 15.

<sup>40</sup> William D. Rowley, 'The Loup City Riot of 1934: Main Street Vs. The "Far-Out" Left' Nebraska History vol 47 1966. 296

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid*. 326.

<sup>42</sup> *Loup City, Celebrating 125 Years, 2006 Yearbook*. Pp 17-18.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid*, p. 14.

# Survey Methods

## Introduction

This chapter describes the project methodology applied to conduct the survey in Sherman County. The Nebraska State Historical Society retained Historic Resources Group, Inc. (HRG) to identify and document significant historic and architectural properties within Sherman County, Nebraska. The historian and architectural historian from HRG conducted reconnaissance level field survey in October and November 2017. Baseline information for this survey was built upon previous surveys conducted by Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office in 1979 and 1983.

This project resurveyed Sherman County, an area that has not been comprehensively evaluated since 1983. At that time 445 properties were surveyed across the platted communities of Ashton, Hazard, Litchfield, Loup City, Rockville, and within the rural areas. Properties that meet minimum survey standards were evaluated to determine if they may be considered potentially eligi-

ble for the National Register. This evaluation included individual properties, potential historic districts, and potential thematic study areas. In this chapter the survey results are documented, and historic property types identified. Chapter 3 of this report identifies recommendations for future study in Sherman County and identifies those properties survey that may qualify for National Register listing.

## Documents and Deliverables

HRG documented each property recorded during field survey into the Nebraska Historic Resource Survey Inventory (NeHRSI) database. Each rural property (those properties outside platted urban areas) was recorded on a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map and a county road map. Each urban property (those properties located within urban platted townships) was recorded on a city plat map. These printed maps were marked by hand by a single point are available in the NeHRSI flat files at NSHS.

Each property was also photographed using a digital camera. These photos document the important features of each property to illustrate its condition and physical integrity at the time of the survey. Supplemental photographs of landscape features and other notable resources within the county were recorded. Each photograph is labeled using the NeHRSI guidelines which includes the site number, underscore, and date. An example would be SM00-000\_2017-11-1. Each property is linked to a developmental historic context identified in the NeHRSI manual. These property examples and contexts are located after the methodology statements in Chapter 2.

## Mapping and GIS

After field survey work was completed, GIS shapefiles from the NeSHPO office were updated to include every surveyed property. Property locations were digitized on-screen using aerial imagery and seamless USGS topographic maps of the county. Points were used to plot individual features such as bridges and residences. Area (polygons) were used to plot cemeteries and large complexes such as the courthouse square. Lines were used to plot linear features such as historic highways and canals. All features, whether point, line, or area, are linked to attribute data taken from the Nebraska Historic Resources Survey Inventory database.

Final documents as part of this survey included the survey report itself, digital images of surveyed properties, digital GIS data layers, maps, the database, and the research files.

## Project Understanding and Evaluation Criteria

The intent of the reconnaissance level survey as administered by the NeSHPO for the NeHRSI is to identify and document properties within a specified study area that may be utilized for contextual comparisons for their architectural and historical importance. Not all properties documented are eligible for listing in the National Register, but they provide a baseline of understanding of the built environment within the project study area, in this case Sherman County, Nebraska. General contextual research of the history of the county and communities within the county provides a broad base of knowledge of broad themes in history. Research for this project is limited to a general overview of the area and does not delve into individual site or building development. Information identified in the *Nebraska Historic Resources Survey and Inventory Manual 2010 Edition* served as a baseline for documenting these properties for inclusion in the survey.

Within Sherman County all buildings, structures, sites, and objects that could be evaluated from the public right-of-way were evaluated. Every publicly accessible street within the county was traversed to note the extent of the built environment. HRG accessed archival and library resources at the Sherman County Historical Society, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and the Loup City Public Library to document the development of the early settlement, history, culture, recreation, and transportation trends.

The 445 properties existing in the NeHRSI database were evaluated during field sur-

vey. The location, current condition, and potential eligibility of each property was documented. Properties that met minimum survey standards since the previous 1983 effort in Sherman County were also included. Sixty-one new properties throughout the county were included. All properties surveyed were digitally photographed, described, and location noted on a survey map and within the NeHRSI Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database.

The project area was initially examined to determine the type of resources present and their general location, particularly those that might not be easily accessible from the right-of-way. For example, those properties located in the middle of a section or structural features like irrigation canals. An on-site analysis of each property previously surveyed was completed by HRG to assess their existing condition, integrity, and significance. Information gathered included identifying the current condition of the properties and verifying their eligibility status based on previous survey information. Survey methodology for this report incorporates the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation*, and the *Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory Manual, 2010 Edition*. When not visible from the road right-of-way, historic properties were identified in this report through use of aerial photography and existing records research. Further visual assessment of the cultural setting and view shed was completed from vantage points across the county to document the changes in the landscape over time.

When evaluating properties for inclusion in the survey, the property should be approximately 50 years old or older, meet at least

one of four National Register Criteria and retain a high degree of historic integrity. Location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Register and supported in the Survey Manual. In general, a property will always possess several, and usually most, of these aspects. Historic significance may then be present in one of four categories: important historic events; significant people in history; significant architecture, design or property type; and potential to yield important historic information. The NeHRSI Survey Manual provides guidance for these survey techniques utilized in Nebraska as well as comparative information to support recommendations of National Register eligibility for both individual properties and historic districts.

Often some properties that are more than 50 years old are not included in a survey primarily due to extensive alterations that significantly diminish their historic integrity. These properties are not generally recorded because alterations have eliminated the significant qualities that may once have contributed to their integrity. Examples include properties with large additions to the main residence or alterations such as enclosed porches with new siding, and new windows. These types of cumulative alterations diminish integrity and detract from the qualities that may have been defining characteristics in National Register eligibility evaluations. Other properties include in the survey meet the general age and integrity standards, and their eligibility for the National Register is based on local context. Evaluation of these resources took into consideration factors such as historic context, physical integrity, and comparative analysis.



In general the information below for each specific property type was utilized to support the eligibility recommendations as part of the survey summary results in this report.

### *Single Family Residences*

As a general rule, physical integrity standards are applied most rigorously to houses because houses outnumber all other property types in the built environment. The Nebraska SHPO does not add individual houses to their survey inventory unless they possess some specific area of significance or represent a historic context expressly identified as part of the purpose of a survey. Residences with alterations such as modern siding like vinyl, steel, or PermaStone are not considered eligible or historic unless those siding materials are original to the building. Other alterations to residences that diminish their historic integrity include replaced windows, enclosed or altered porches, and additions. Sometimes additions and alterations to buildings have reached the 50-year age threshold themselves. However, these alterations must respect the historic integrity and intent of the original design, and not be incompatible with historic design features. An individual residence must retain significant architectural details or historical importance to support eligibility. In the case of isolated residences outside of a neighborhood or farm context, the property must retain a high degree of physical integrity or significance to be recommended eligible. It is important to note that cosmetic appearance and physical condition do not influence a property's historic integrity. Existing historic materials and surrounding context are evaluated independent of deferred maintenance. However, deferred maintenance can lead to a loss of physical integrity, if/when

resource materials have actually been lost or are beyond repair.

Relative rarity because of age or property type is also a consideration for eligibility of single family residences. Although generally not an issue in urban areas, specific construction methods such as sod or stone represent rare and fleeting property types, and a much broader interpretation of integrity may be applied to these properties.

### *Residential Historic Districts*

Groups of residences in appropriate settings are evaluated within their respective historical and physical context as an historic district. Because larger groups of buildings can speak to a greater area of significance and historic development, minor alterations to individual buildings that may be incompatible with the historic design intent may be overlooked, provided those alterations do not diminish the historic integrity of the property or its ability to contribute to the district. For example, an individual residence with non-historic siding, but with no additions or other alterations may still contribute to a district when it would most likely not be considered individually eligible.

Residences in the study area were evaluated both individually and as potential components of historic districts. In the case of historic districts minor alterations to the area as a whole are also tolerable provided the character defining features of the neighborhood are retained. Contextual considerations for evaluating residential historic districts include consistency in massing, configuration, landscape, setback and physical relation to other buildings. Identifying character defining features of a group of build-



ings, retention of historic integrity, and consistency throughout the area are the types of features that contribute to recognizing historic districts. For example, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood with infill modern apartment buildings, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residences, and commercial properties peppering the area most likely will not retain the character defining features that speak to the significance of the area. A district should be generally consistent in the types of residences, contain minimal modern infill, and retain a majority of buildings contributing to the district. Although there is no set number, a minimum of 70% to 80% of properties in an area should be able to contribute to the district. No residential historic districts were identified as part of this survey.

### *Farmsteads/Complexes/Ranches*

Historic Farmsteads and collections of farm and ranch related buildings that possess physical integrity are becoming increasingly rare in the rural landscape. Farmsteads and related rural complexes retain significance and express that significance as a group or collection of buildings. Each individual building contributes to the function, integrity, and potential significance of the collection. The generally accepted methodology for surveying rural farm or ranch related properties places emphasis on the primary building of the complex. In most cases this is the farmhouse, however in industrial farming or ranching properties the primary building may be an office complex or some other type of property. If the primary building does not retain sufficient historic integrity or if it has been removed or replaced, then the associated resources in the built environment are generally not recommended eligible and often not recorded.

However, there may be exceptions where secondary buildings such as an individual barn can be included in the survey. Barns as a distinct historic resource may retain historic significance in and of themselves either as an example of a type of construction (Grade A Dairy Barn as an example) where the function of the building is clearly expressed in the construction methodology. Some may be considered rare property types that retain a high degree of historic integrity as individually significant properties. Vernacular features may also be present that exhibit significance. Examples may include regional construction materials like earthen materials such as sod, rammed earth, adobe, etc. or stone.

New construction on farmsteads or rural properties is a common occurrence. The natural evolution of materials, technology, environment, and use of the property requires additions and alterations over time to maintain the functioning viability of an operating farm or ranch property. Typically these buildings include mass produced metal pole barns and storage sheds to accommodate the larger sizes of tractors, other farm equipment, and changes in the storage and treatment of crops. However, these buildings can overwhelm the historic buildings in size and scale and can dominate the appearance of the farmstead. Location and relationship of the historic core buildings to new buildings can influence the potential eligibility of a farmstead. It is preferable that new buildings be located at the edges of the farmstead to retain the physical relationship of the historic buildings to one another, for example the location of the house in relation to the position of the barns and other outbuildings. New construction can affect the physical integrity of the farmstead and the number, size, location, and materi-

als of the new buildings are a consideration of the eligibility of rural properties. Because of the functional requirement of this type of new construction on historic farmsteads, the intact historic farm with a high degree of historic integrity is increasingly becoming a rare commodity in Nebraska.

Historic farmsteads and ranches often have series of smaller support buildings, sheds, coops, and storage facilities that support the functionality and vitality of the historic property. If these are the only buildings remaining, then a rural property is generally not recommended eligible as the key resources on the built environment (i.e. house and barn) are no longer extant or no longer retain their physical integrity as a group or complex of buildings.

### *Commercial Buildings*

Commercial buildings in the study area were evaluated both individually and as potential components of historic districts. Alterations to commercial buildings typically occur on the main first floor storefronts. Frequent changes through time, often with applied non-historic materials to accommodate new uses, are evaluated based on the size, scale, and configuration of the storefront. A storefront that retains the historic opening size and setbacks, such as recessed entrances with display windows, but has been replaced with new materials may not significantly diminish the buildings physical integrity. However, a storefront where the openings size and shape have been altered or in filled can significantly affect historic integrity.

The number of stories or building height and massing also contributes to evaluating eligibility and integrity in a commercial re-

source. For example, a significantly altered storefront on a one-story building consumes more surface area and percentage of historic material than a multi-story building with an altered storefront. The one-story building will have less ability to convey significance and therefore eligibility, than a multi-story building with the same altered storefront. Multiple story buildings have a higher potential to retain integrity simply due to the additional area where historic materials may be present. Multiple-story commercial buildings may tolerate and absorb storefront alterations to a degree but have additional considerations such as the configuration of fenestration.

Opening size, materials of window units, space on the building, and configuration of historic units can contribute greatly to a building's historic integrity. Additional facade space generally provides more area for applied ornament and architectural design, further contributing to commercial resources significance and integrity. The cumulative effect of altered storefronts, replaced and/or reconfigured windows, as well as additions will diminish the historic integrity of a multiple story commercial building.

Commercial historic districts require similar evaluation techniques as residential districts. In general, similar property uses will contribute to the character defining features of a potential district. Dense urban areas of warehouses and industrial buildings defined by a grid road system or railroad tracks is an example. Groups of commercial or office buildings with support properties such as restaurants and small retail is another example. Groups of historic commercial buildings should generally retain material types (such as masonry or wood), size, scale, massing and continuity in the group. Collections

of buildings punctuated by vacant lots, parking areas, modern road systems, and buildings that have been physically altered generally do not create a group cohesive enough to support an historic district. In Sherman County no potential commercial historic districts were identified.

## National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. It was authorized by the National Historic Preservation act of 1966 and is administered by the National Park Service. These historic places include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. In order to qualify for the National Register a property must possess significance in one of four areas as follows:

**Criterion A** — Those properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

**Criterion B** — Those properties that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or

**Criterion C** — Those properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

**Criterion D** — Those properties that have yielded or may be likely to

yield, information important in history or prehistory.

There are considerations to these criteria however, because properties including cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for the National Register unless they meet the following criteria consideration categories:

**Consideration A** — A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or

**Consideration B** — A building or structure removed from its original location, but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

**Consideration C** — A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life; or

**Consideration D** — A cemetery that derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features or from association with historic events; or

**Consideration E** – A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

**Consideration F** – A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

**Consideration G** – A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

A property must also retain its physical integrity. This means the property is able to convey its significance through its historic materials. Integrity is defined as retention of the following characteristics:

- Location
- Design
- Setting
- Materials
- Workmanship
- Feeling
- Association

Definitions of these survey terms as well as other key language related to the survey may be found in the Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms section. Chapter 4 continues the discussion on the National Register and other NeSHPO programs.

### *Survey Limitations and Biases*

All properties were evaluated from the public right-of-way for this survey. Some properties in Sherman County were not readily visible from the right-of-way due to distance or dense foliage. Every attempt was made to clearly photograph and evaluate these properties; however, some were not visible or were obscured by some other element in nature or the built environment. Regardless, all properties were identified on survey maps whether visible or not.

## **Survey Results**

HRG evaluated 506 individual properties as part of the Sherman County Survey. Included in these are 445 previously surveyed properties, which included three buildings listed in the National Register. The survey identified that 141 properties previously surveyed were no longer extant and that 101 properties were not re-evaluated because they exhibited poor integrity. In total HRG identified 61 newly surveyed properties. Eighteen properties were excluded from evaluation. A total of 185 of the previously surveyed properties were re-evaluated and incorporated into the new survey data. Table 3 documents surveyed properties by each community. A complete list of the 246 evaluated properties can be found in Appendix A.

### *Illustrated Discussion of Significant Historic Contexts*

The NeHRSI Survey Manual developed and identified 12 historic contexts that are related to patterns and themes in Nebraska history, and provide the basis for Nebraska's state historic preservation plan. These broad patterns of Nebraska's historical development are associated with specific property types. The Sherman County exam-

**Table 9.** Summary of Survey Results

Sherman Co.	Previously Surveyed	No Longer Extant	Loss of Integrity	Not Evaluated*	Newly Surveyed	Total Evaluated
Ashton	79	-32	-14	0	3	36
Hazard	22	-7	-5	0	3	13
Litchfield	53	-12	-13	0	5	33
Loup City	149	-34	-38	-2	19	94
Rockville	44	-11	-14	0	0	19
Rural	98	-45	-17	-16	31	51
TOTAL	445	-141	-101	-18	61	246

\* Properties were not evaluated when they were visually obstructed from the public right-of-way, moved or their exact location was not confirmed. Rural cemeteries were also not evaluated.

ples related to each of these property types are identified in the text below. These are examples of the contexts and not necessarily properties that are recommended National Register eligible.

## Agriculture

The historic agricultural context is associated with property types that relate to food production which includes crops and livestock. In Sherman County the survey identified farmsteads associated with this context as well as industrial properties that serve the farm industry such as grain elevators. With the introduction of irrigation features such as the Sherman County Reservoir as well as center pivot irrigation the agricultural landscape changed drastically. Farmsteads constructed prior to World War II generally consisted of a main residence with support buildings such as sheds, detached garages, barns, chicken coups, grain storage structures, and other outbuildings. Modern farming practices brought the need for larger utility buildings to store farm equipment and machinery. These buildings were often constructed of metal or even prefabricated rather than being built of wood like most

buildings in the first half of the twentieth century. In Sherman County many farmsteads were not easily visible or accessed because of dense foliage or their distance from the public right-of-way. This could pre-



Rural farmstead, SM00-122



Frame gambrel barn with side bays, SM00-030



Rural farmstead, SM00-036



Knights of Columbus Hall in Loup City, SM04-058



Farwell Irrigation Canal, SM00-130

clude their evaluation or inclusion in the survey.

## Association

The historic context of association incorporates organized social organizations that include fraternal groups such as the Woodmen of the World, American Legion, Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Rotary, Shriners, or Knights of Columbus. It also includes educational or special interest groups like the 4-H, the YMCA, Boy Scouts, and Girls Scouts. The development of these associations and the representative property types will vary by community and the halls and lodges each built. Cultural affiliations often represent important social organizations. Examples can include Zapadni Ceska

Bratrska Jednota or ZCBJ Halls which served as meeting space for the Czech communities. In Sherman County the Knights of Columbus Hall in Loup City is an example.

## Commerce

The historic context of commerce identifies properties associated with buying and selling commodities. This broad area incorporates a wide variety of property types, but the most typical are those commercial buildings found in the downtown core of a community. They can include resources associated with transportation, wholesaling or warehouses, restaurants, retail outlets,



False front building, Ashton SM01-008





False front building, Rockville SM05-013



Commercial block, Loup City SM04-016

early trading posts, grain elevators, hotels, and shopping malls. Commercial buildings tend to be concentrated in platted communities are create the downtown. They are typically one to three stories, built of brick or false front wood frame depending on construction date. As the largest community in Sherman County, Loup City retains the most commercial buildings; however, they are present in each of the five communities. Examples include a small scale one story hollow tile false front building in Ashton (SM01-008), a frame false front in Rockville, and a two-story brick commercial brick block (SM04-016) in Loup City.

## Diversion

Recreation and entertainment properties represent the historic context identified as diversion. Diversion properties are those that are associated with activities meant to



Litchfield Band Shell, SM03-049



Jenner Park, Loup City SM04-001



Sherman County Reservoir, SM00-129





Wichman Dance Pavillion in Loup City, SM04-072



Ashton School, SM01-001



Sherman County Fairgrounds, SM00-071



Hazard School, SM02-023

relax and amuse. This can include activities such as participating in and watching sporting events, public expositions, and parks. Types of properties associated with this context include fairgrounds, festival sites, campgrounds, wildlife refuges, and parks. Within the built environments examples may include theatres, auditoriums, band shelters, nature centers, public parks, golf courses, fairgrounds, lakes, swimming pools, and playgrounds. In Sherman County several properties associated with the diversion context were identified. Some examples include Litchfield Band Shell (SM03-049), Jenner Park in Loup City (SM04-001), the Sherman County Reservoir (SM00-129), and the Loup City Dance Hall (SM04-072).

## Education

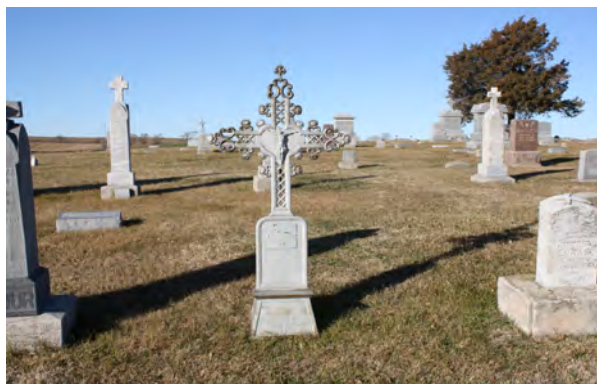
Historic resources associated with the education context incorporate those features in the built environment that impart the process of acquiring knowledge. These properties can include museums, libraries, and zoos. Most typically associated with this context are school buildings. School buildings can include rural schools, high schools, colleges and universities, private schools, and specialized schools. In Sherman County there are very few rural one-room schools remaining in good condition. Many are in ruins or have disappeared from the landscape all together. Examples included in this survey are the Ashton School (SM01-001) and the Hazard School (SM02-023).



Example of grave markers in German, German Lutheran Cemetery, SM00-008



Sherman County Courthouse (listed), SM04-135



Example of iron crosses in Ashton Cemetery, SM01-028



Loup City Carnegie Library (listed), SM04-079

## Ethnic Heritage

Within the context of ethnic heritage are ethnic-American groups who have contributed as a group or individually to the cultural history of Nebraska. These groups may include people from European, Hispanic, Asian, African or Native American origins. Property types include any and all resources within the built environment that were constructed by the specific groups and represent their culture. In Sherman County, cemeteries are the most common resource that illustrate ethnic ties. These include the German Lutheran Cemetery (SM00-008) near Ashton and the Ashton Cemetery (SM01-028).



Ashton Village Hall, SM01-010

## Government

The historic context associated with government identifies those properties that partici-





Rockville City Hall: SM05-006

pated in the act or process of governing. These properties can be associated with all levels of government and can include office buildings, courthouses, post offices, police stations, libraries, prisons, and military installations. In Sherman County the most common property type associated with this context is the city hall, public library, post office, and the Sherman County Courthouse. Not all communities retain properties associated with this context, however examples include the Sherman County Courthouse which is listed in the National Register (SM04-0135), the Loup City Carnegie Library which is listed in the National Register (SM04-079), the Village Hall in Ashton (SM01-010), and the Rockville City Hall (SM05-006)



St. Francis Catholic Church, Ashton SM01-021

## Religion

Properties associated with the religion context include those that represent the institutionalized faithful devotion to a deity result-



Hazard United Methodist Church, SM02-001



Loup City First Baptist Church, SM04-104



St. Josephat Catholic Church, Loup City SM04-150

ing in a system of attitudes, beliefs and practices. Property types found in Sherman County include churches, cemeteries, parish halls, and clergy residences. Styles range from gable end wood frame churches with bell towers to contemporary brick campuses like St. Josephat's Catholic Church in Loup City.

## Services

The services historic context addresses resources that support services provided or controlled by the government and commonly viewed as necessities. These services include gas, electricity, water supply, waste disposal, disaster relief, health care, and protective services like fire prevention and pub-



First National Bank in Loup City, SM04-018



Amick Hospital, Loup City SM04-080



Former clinic in Loup City, SM04-082



Central Nebraska Community Services clinic in Loup City, SM04-163.

lic safety. All aspects of health care and other professional service-oriented commerce are included in this category. Properties associated with public utilities, banking, sanitation, and private utilities are included in this category. Representative property types in Sherman County include the First National Bank in Loup City (SM04-018), the Old Carl Amick Hospital (Mercy Center) in Loup City (SM04-080), the Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership building (SM04-163), and Central Nebraska Community Services medical clinic in Loup City (SM04-082).



## Settlement Systems/Architecture

Settlement systems involve the division, acquisition and ownership of land and the patterns generated to facilitate cultural systems. This is commonly reflected as the township, section, and range grid pattern consisting of portions or all of a one-mile square section within a six-mile square grid or township. This includes the lot systems found in platted communities, townships, and villages. Residential properties such as single family detached houses, duplexes, multiple family dwellings, boarding houses, and dormitories are all associated with this historic context. However, the context can also include aboriginal land divisions that accommodated American Indian villages, burial grounds and reservations. Settlement systems context is most commonly applied to residential properties.

In Sherman County most houses represent vernacular forms with stylized architectural details. By their nature vernacular properties do not exhibit high-style architectural design, and tend to be constructed by local builders, contractors, homeowners, or lumber and brick yards as opposed to architects. These houses include the simple one-story cube with front porch as well as the front, side, and gable ell plans. Architectural revival styles and American Arts and Crafts styles are also well represented within the survey area. Additional architectural style definitions are in the Glossary of Architectural Styles and Survey Terms. As the most prolific property type within the Sherman County survey area, residential properties were documented in the survey if they retained a high degree of physical integrity. A brief discussion and examples of the house types include those referenced below.

**Gable end, side gable, and gable ell** plans are generally rectangular in shape and one to one-and-a-half stories. The gable ell consists of two gabled wings that intersect to form an “L” or “T” plan. These properties often have front porches with varying types of columns or posts.



Rural gable ell house, SM00-120



Rural gable end house, SM00-128



Rural side gable house, SM00-109

**One-story cube** is a vernacular style that appears repeatedly throughout the communities in Sherman County. The house has a simple square footprint, often with a clipped -pyramidal roof, and projecting front porch.



One story pyramidal cube with dormer in Hazard, SM02-010



One story pyramidal cube with Eastlake porch in Litchfield, SM03-045



One story cube with clipped pyramidal roof in Litchfield, SM03-058

**Victorian/Queen Anne** style houses date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These properties typically have irregular footprints, steeply pitched rooflines, full-width, corner or wrap around porches with turned posts and scrollwork, turrets, decorative shingles, and a variety of cladding materials. As a relatively early property type, there are few examples throughout the county, however several small scale vernacular houses have applied details to express the Queen Anne style. The addition of turned brackets or porch posts, and decorative wall shingles can lend the style to small scale and otherwise unornamented houses and are often referred to as Folk Victorian.



Victorian/Queen Anne house in Loup City, SM04-075



Folk Victorian house in Loup City, SM04-126



**American Foursquare** houses are typically two story symmetrical boxes with a square floor plan. They are commonly seen during the period between World Wars I and II. Common architectural features include a shallow pitched hipped roof, dormer windows, and a full-width front porch. Overhanging roof eaves contribute to the boxy and horizontal feel of these houses.



American foursquare house constructed of patterned concrete block in Loup City, SM04-110

**Prairie Style** houses are usually defined by a low, heavy horizontal feeling with flat or very shallow hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves to contribute to the low horizontal feel. Architectural features include banded or horizontal windows and minimal



Prairie style house in Loup City, SM04-117

decoration allowing the feeling, materials, design and massing to express the style. The term Prairie Style or Prairie School was meant to define an architectural style appropriate for the Midwest and to blend in with the native prairie landscape.

**Craftsman** houses also have a low or horizontal massing with low pitched gable roofs with exposed rafters, dormers, and front porches. Porches could be recessed or projecting and typically had battered columns. Craftsman houses were commonly built in the 1920s and 1930s.



Craftsman bungalow with wide shed dormer in Ashton, SM01-044



Craftsman bungalow with full width porch in Ashton, SM01-081

**Period Revival** styles include Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and Neo-Classical Revival. These houses generally have symmetrical façade with side-oriented rooflines.



Colonial Revival house in Loup City, SM04-090



Period Revival house in Loup City, SM04-096



Minimal traditional house with Tudor details in Loup City, SM04-153

The **Minimal Traditional** housing form developed following World War II and these houses are generally small-scale cottages with loose ties to earlier revival styles. Typically these are one or one and a half story houses with little to no overhanging eaves, and few architectural embellishments.

**Ranch houses** are one story properties with shallow, low-pitched roof lines and attached garages. Ranch houses were generally brick or wood clad and often had large picture windows on the main façade. Variations on the ranch house evolved over time to include the rambling ranch, split-level and bi-level.



Ranch style house near Rockville, SM00-110



Ranch style house in Litchfield, SM03-056



**Contemporary** housing forms incorporate asymmetrical facades, reflective and clear materials such as glass and metal and often have flat roofs with overhanging eaves.



Round house with scalloped eave roof in rural Sherman County, SM00-100



Contemporary style house with low-pitched roof in Loup City, SM04-158

## Transportation

The historic transportation context addresses properties that carry, move or convey material and people from one place to another. Transportation services can be provided by land, water, or air and include associated support resources such as hotels, service stations, and docks. Transportation resources include roads and highways, military routes, railroads, and rivers. Associated support properties can include resources such as lighthouses, boats, parking areas,



Service station in Loup City, SM04-035



Pony truss bridge near Hazard, SM00-080

gas and service stations, bridges, and airplane hangars. In Sherman County portions of the Potash Highway (SM00-088 which connected Alliance to Grand Island represent significant automobile transportation development. Other property examples include one of a pair of service stations in Ashton (SM01-017), a service station in Loup City (SM04-035) and a rural pony truss bridge (SM00-080).

## NOTES

<sup>44</sup> 2010 NeHSI Survey Manual

<sup>45</sup> National Register Bulletin, How to Apply the National Register criteria for Evaluation. [www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15) accessed 2-19-2018.

<sup>46</sup> National Register Bulletin, How to Apply the National Register criteria for Evaluation. [www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15) accessed 2-19-2018.

# Recommendations

Part of the survey effort in Sherman County The main goal of the survey was to identify and recommend properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Three properties in Sherman County are currently listed in the National Register. They include the Sherman County Courthouse (SM04-135) in Loup City, the Frederick Hotel (SM04-031) in Loup City, and the Loup City Township Carnegie Library (SM04-079) in Loup City.

The following properties are recommended potentially eligible for the National Register. Due to the nature of a reconnaissance level survey the following properties are included primarily for their architectural merit because research into each property is not part of this undertaking. No historic districts were identified during field survey.

## Thematic Water Resource Study

The impact of the Sherman County Reservoir and the Farwell Irrigation District on the county has been immense. These water resources are important not only to agricul-

ture in Sherman County, but also entertainment and recreation. The Farwell Irrigation District is part of the Loup Basin Reclamation District and serves not only Sherman County but Custer, Valley, and Howard counties as well. Water is diverted from the Middle Loup River by the Arcadia Diversion Dam and carried through the Sherman Feeder Canal to Sherman Reservoir. The reservoir acts not only as water storage for the irrigation needs, but also as an important recreational resource for boating, fishing, and entertainment in the County and surrounding area. The irrigation system serves more than 50,000 acres in Sherman and Howard Counties. The dam and reservoir were built in response to severe and recurrent drought conditions in the early 1930's. Plans to organize the irrigation district and address flood control of the Missouri River basin began immediately following World War II, and by 1959 the Sherman Dam was under construction.

## Commerce

Former American State Bank,  
Loup City



First National Bank, Loup City  
SM04-018



Sherman County Research  
Center; Barbershop, Loup City  
SM04-024





## Commerce



Farmers State Bank, Rockville  
SM05-019



Post Office, Rockville  
SM05-021



## Diversion

Sherman County Fairgrounds  
SM00-071



Bandshell, Litchfield  
SM03-049



Jenner Park, Loup City  
SM04-001





## Farmsteads and Houses



Rural farmhouse  
SM00-126



House, Ashton  
SM01-024



House, Ashton  
SM01-030



## Farmsteads and Houses

House, Aston  
SM01-081



House, Aston  
SM01-082



House, Litchfield  
SM03-035





## Farmsteads and Houses



House, Loup City  
SM04-070



House, Loup City  
SM04-075



House, Loup City  
SM04-090



## Farmsteads and Houses

House, Loup City  
SM04-096



House, Loup City  
SM04-097



House, Loup City  
SM04-098





## Farmsteads and Houses



House, Loup City  
SM04-106



House, Loup City  
SM04-110



House, Loup City  
SM04-114



## Farmsteads and Houses

House, Loup City  
SM04-115



House, Loup City  
SM04-152



House, Loup City  
SM04-156



## Farmsteads and Houses



House, Loup City  
SM04-160



## Education

Ashton School  
SM01-001



Auditorium; School, Loup City  
SM04-006



Elementary School, Loup City  
SM04-159



## Religion



St. Josaphat Catholic Church,  
Loup City  
SM04-150

## Service



Former Clinic, Loup City  
SM04-082



## Transportation

Filling Station, Ashton  
SM01-003



Filling Station, Ashton  
SM01-017



Service Station, Ashton  
SM01-054



## Transportation



Filling Station, Loup City  
SM04-036



Service Station, Loup City  
SM04-038





# The Nebraska Historic Preservation Office

Throughout much of Nebraska's history, preservation was the province of dedicated individuals and organizations working alone in local communities. However, since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the governor of each state has been required to appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to oversee preservation efforts. In Nebraska, the Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) serves as SHPO. Staff of the NSHS Historic Preservation Division forms the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

The NeSHPO administers a wide range of preservation programs. The duties of the NeSHPO relating to programs called for by the National Historic Preservation Act include the following:

- Conducting and maintaining a statewide historic resources survey and inventory of those properties surveyed.
- Administering the National Register of Historic Places program.
- Assisting local governments in the development of historic preservation programs and certification of qualifying governments.
- Administering a federal tax incentives program for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Assisting federal agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties that may be affected by their projects.
- Providing preservation education, training, and technical assistance to individuals and

groups and local, state, and federal agencies.

What follows is a brief discussion of NeSHPO programs, followed with our contact information. Though described individually, it is important to note that NeSHPO programs often act in concert with other programs and should be considered elements of the NeSHPO mission and a part of the overall mission of the NSHS.

## **Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory (NeHRSI)**

Surveys are typically conducted on a county-by-county basis or by focusing on individual cities. Information from these surveys by the NSHS and surveys conducted by other government agencies and the public contribute to the statewide inventory of historic resources which currently stands at 83,000 documented sites, reflecting Nebraska's rich architectural and historic heritage. Surveys funded by the NeSHPO are conducted by researchers who drive every public road in the area and record each property that meets certain historic requirements. Surveyors do not enter private property without permission. In addition to this fieldwork, surveyors research the area's history to better understand the region. Survey projects often include thematic or statewide subjects that may be unique to a certain location, such as a specific structure or type of industry.

The survey normally includes properties with unique or representative architectural styles or types. When possible and known, the survey also documents properties that have historical significance. The survey is not intended to be a comprehensive history

of a county, but a detailed examination of extant historic properties. Additionally, as the survey is in part federally funded, the NeSHPO must use federal guidelines when evaluating and identifying historic properties. The survey is not the end result, but a starting point for public planners and individuals who value their community's history.

The purpose of survey and inventory is to help local preservation advocates, elected officials, land-use planners, economic development coordinators, and tourism promoters understand the value of historic properties in their communities. Properties included in the survey have no use restrictions placed on them and survey inclusion does not require any type of special maintenance. Rather, the survey provides a foundation for identifying properties that may be worthy of preservation, promotion, and recognition within a community.

## **National Register of Historic Places**

One of the goals of the survey is to help identify properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register. The National Register is our nation's official list of significant historic properties. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are significant in our history or prehistory. These properties and objects may reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, architectural style, or archaeological site. National Register properties may be significant at the local, state, or national levels.

Properties need not be as historic as Fort

Robinson or architecturally spectacular as the Nebraska State Capitol to be listed in the National Register. Local properties that retain their physical integrity and convey local historic significance may also be listed. It is important to note what listing a property in the National Register means, or perhaps more importantly, does not mean.

**The National Register does not:**

- Restrict, in any way, a private property owner's ability to alter, manage or dispose of a property.
- Require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored.
- Invoke special zoning or local landmark designation.
- Allow the listing of an individual private property over an owner's objection.
- Allow the listing of an historic district over a majority of property owners' objections.

**Listing a property on the National Register does:**

- Provide prestigious recognition to significant properties.
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties.
- Provide information about historic properties for local and statewide planning purposes.
- Promote community development, tourism, and economic development.
- Provide basic eligibility for financial incentives, when available.
- 

## **Certified Local Governments**

An important objective of the NeSHPO is to translate the federal preservation program, as embodied by the National Historic Preservation Act, to the local-level. One element of this goal is to link local governments with a nationwide network of federal, state, and local organizations. One of the most effective tools for this purpose is the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. A CLG is a local government, either a county or municipality that has adopted preservation as a priority. To become a CLG a local government must:

- Establish a preservation ordinance that includes protection for historic properties at a level the community decides is appropriate.
- Promote preservation education and outreach.
- Conduct and maintain some level of a historic building survey.
- Establish a mechanism to designate local landmarks.
- Create a preservation commission to oversee the preservation ordinance and the CLG program.

**The advantages of achieving CLG status include:**

- A CLG is eligible to receive matching funds from the NeSHPO that are unavailable to non-CLGs.
- Contributing buildings within local landmark districts may be eligible for preservation tax incentives without being listed in the National Register.



- Through the use of their landmark and survey programs, CLGs have an additional tool when considering planning, zoning, and land-use regulations relating to historic properties.
- CLGs have the ability to monitor and preserve structures that reflect the community's heritage.
- CLGs have access to a nationwide information network of local, state, federal, and private preservation institutions.
- Finally, a CLG through its ordinance and commission has a built-in mechanism to promote pride in, and understanding of, a community's history.

Certification of a local government for CLG status comes from the NeSHPO and the National Park Service, and there are general rules to follow. A community considering CLG status is given broad flexibility with those guidelines when structuring its CLG program. The emphasis of the CLG program is local management of historic properties with technical and grants assistance from the NeSHPO.

## Preservation Tax Incentives

Since 1976 the Internal Revenue Code has contained provisions offering tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties. Historic properties are defined as those listed in the National Register, or as buildings that contribute to the significance of a National Register or Local Landmark historic district. An income-producing property may be a rental residential, office, commercial, or industrial property. Historic working barns or other

agricultural outbuildings may also qualify.

A certified rehabilitation is one that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The standards are a common sense approach to the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. It is important to remember that this program promotes the rehabilitation of historic properties so that they may be used to the benefit and enjoyment of the property owner and the community. The program is not necessarily intended to reconstruct or restore historic buildings to exact/original specifications.

The tax incentive program in Nebraska has been responsible for:

- Reinvesting millions of dollars for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Establishing thousands of low- and moderate-income housing units and upper-income units.
- Encouraging the adaptive reuse of previously under or unutilized historic properties in older downtown commercial areas.
- Helping to broaden the tax base.
- Giving real estate developers and city planners the incentive to consider projects in older, historic neighborhoods.
- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods.

Certification of the historic character of the income-producing property—usually by listing the property in the National Register—and certification of the historic rehabilitation is made by both the NeSHPO and the National Park Service. Before initiating any activity for a project that anticipates the use

of preservation tax credits, owners should contact the NeSHPO and a professional tax advisor, legal counsel, or appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office.

## Nebraska Historic Tax Credit (NHTC)

In 2014, the Nebraska State Legislature passed the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Redevelopment Act. This program offers a total of \$15 million in state historic preservation tax credits for each calendar year from 2015 to 2018. It is administered jointly by the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Department of Revenue. This program provides a twenty percent (20%) Nebraska tax credit for eligible expenditures made to rehabilitate, restore or preserve historic buildings. This is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state tax liability, which can be transferred with limitations. The minimum project investment must equal or exceed \$25,000; with a maximum of \$1 million in credits allowed per project.

To qualify, rehabilitation work must meet generally accepted preservation standards, and the historic property must be:

- Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or is in the process of nomination/listing
- Located within a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places or part of a pending district nomination/listing
- Listed individually under a certified local preservation ordinance or is pending designation or
- Located within a historic district

designated under a certified local preservation ordinance or located within a district that is pending designation.

- A historic property must NOT be:
- A detached, single-family residences.

## Valuation Incentive Program

The Valuation Incentive Program (VIP) is a property tax incentive that assists in the preservation of Nebraska's historic buildings. Through the valuation preference, the assessed valuation of a historic property is frozen for eight years at the year rehabilitation started. The valuation then rises to its market level over a four-year period. To be eligible for this state tax incentive, a building must:

- Be a qualified historic structure, either by listing in the National Register or by local landmark designation through an approved local government ordinance.
- Be substantially rehabilitated, which means the project must be worth at least 25 percent of the property's base-year assessed value.
- Be rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.
- Buildings must be a qualified historic structure and the NeSHPO must approve the rehabilitation before construction work starts in order to qualify for the tax freeze benefits. The tax freeze benefits the owners of the

historic properties and the community by:

- Providing a real economic incentive to rehabilitate historic buildings.
- Increasing the long-term tax base of a community.
- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods and commercial areas.
- Encouraging the promotion, recognition, and designation of historic buildings.
- Allowing participation by local governments that enact approved historic preservation ordinances.

## Federal Project Review

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties; develop and evaluate alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects their projects may have on historic properties; and afford the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on historic properties. The regulations that govern the Section 106 process, as it is known, also require that the federal agency consult with the NeSHPO when conducting these activities.

For example, if the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), via the Nebraska Department of Roads, contemplates construction of a new highway, FHWA must contact the NeSHPO for assistance in determining whether any sites or structures located in the project area are listed, or eligible for in-

clusion, in the National Register. If properties that meet this criteria are found, the FHWA must consult with the NeSHPO to avoid or reduce any harm the highway might cause the property. Note that a property need not actually be listed in the National Register to be considered for protection, only to have been determined eligible for listing. This process is to take place early enough in the planning effort to allow for alternatives that would avoid adverse effects to historic properties.

It is important to note that public participation in this process is critical. The Section 106 process requires the federal agency to seek public input if adverse effects to historic properties are discovered through consultation with the NeSHPO. The NeSHPO examines information provided by the federal agency, the NeHRSI, and the National Register; although, often the most useful information comes from public comments. Section 106 was included in the National Historic Preservation Act to protect locally significant historic properties from unwitting federal action. It is truly a law that gives the public a voice in an unwieldy bureaucratic system.

## Public Outreach and Education

The primary function of the NeSHPO is to assist communities in preserving significant buildings, sites, and structures that convey a sense of community history. The most powerful tool available to the NeSHPO in this regard is public education. For this reason, NeSHPO staff spends considerable time conducting public meetings and workshops and disseminating information to the public. Additionally, NeSHPO staff is frequently looking for ways to assist teachers as they incorporate Nebraska's heritage into classroom



lessons.

The NeSHPO's goal is to assist local individuals, groups, and governments understand, promote, and preserve historic properties. The NeSHPO advocates not only the self-evident aesthetic advantages of historic preservation, but also the potential for preservation to help promote economic development, community planning, tourism, environmental sensitivity, and land-use planning.

The aforementioned descriptions are meant to orient the reader to the NeSHPO programs within the larger mission of the NSHS. As all NeSHPO programs originate from a common source—the National Historic Preservation Act—they work best when they work together, either in whole or in part. For the programs to function at all, they require the interest and participation of the people they are meant to serve . . . the public.

## State Historic Preservation Office

### Contacts

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## State of Nebraska Historic Preservation Board Members

**Trevor Jones** – Lincoln, Secretary

**Kim Elder** – Paxton, President of the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees

**Barry Jurgensen** – Omaha, Chair of Historic Preservation Board

**Shelley McCafferty** – Whitney

**John Kay** – Lincoln

**LuAnn Wandsnider** – Lincoln

**Roger Slosson** – Omaha

**Betty Mapes** – Merriman

**Phil Geib** – Lincoln

**Jinny Turman** – Kearney

**Bob Hanover** – Lincoln

# A

## Appendix A

### List of Surveyed Properties

NeHRSI_#	Name	Address	City
SM00-004	Souleville Cemetery	Rural	Rural
SM00-008	Old Lutheran Cemetery	Rural	Rural
SM00-021	Barn	Rural	Rural
SM00-022	Farmstead	Rural	Rural
SM00-024	Farmstead	Rural	Rural
SM00-030	Barn	Rural	Rural
SM00-036	Farmhouse	Rural	Rural
SM00-038	Verdurette Cemetery	Rural	Rural
SM00-043	Farmhouse	Rural	Rural
SM00-044	Farmhouse	Rural	Rural
SM00-045	Evergreen Memorial Cemetery	Rural	Rural
SM00-056	Farmstead	Rural	Rural
SM00-060	Farmhouse	Rural	Rural
SM00-070	Barns	Rural	Rural
SM00-071	Fairgrounds	Rural	Rural
SM00-073	Farmhouse & Barn	Rural	Rural
SM00-080	Bridge	Rural	Rural
SM00-081	Mud Creek Bridge	Rural	Rural
SM00-082	Clear Creek Bridge	Rural	Rural
SM00-088	Potash Highway	Sherman County	Rural
SM00-100	House	Rural	Rural
SM00-101	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-102	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-103	Farm	Rural	Rural



SM00-104	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-105	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-106	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-107	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-108	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-109	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-110	House	Rural	Rural
SM00-111	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-112	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-113	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-114	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-115	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-116	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-117	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-118	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-119	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-120	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-121	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-122	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-123	Rural School House	Rural	Rural
SM00-124	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-125	Tradewinds Marina	Rural	Rural
SM00-126	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-127	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-128	Farm	Rural	Rural
SM00-129	Sherman County Reservoir	Rural	Rural
SM00-130	Farwell Irrigation District	Rural-multiple locations, linear resource	Rural
SM01-001	Ashton School	SWC Fordham & Center	Ashton
SM01-003	Gas Station	SWC Easton & Center	Ashton
SM01-008	Commercial building	WS Center bet. Duncan & Easton	Ashton
SM01-009	Post Office	SWC Duncan & Center	Ashton
SM01-010	Village Hall & Fire Department	ES Center bet. Duncan & Easton	Ashton
SM01-011	Ashton State Bank	NWC Duncan & Center	Ashton
SM01-014	Commercial building	ES Center, bet. Duncan and Carleton	Ashton
SM01-015	Commercial building	SS Dencan, bet. Center & Ingram	Ashton
SM01-017	Gas Station	NWC Carleton & Center	Ashton
SM01-018	Garage (Old Blacksmithery)	SEC Carleton & Center	Ashton
SM01-019	House	WS Center at N. end of town.	Ashton
SM01-021	St. Francis Church	NWC Howell & Carleton	Ashton
SM01-024	House	NWC Easton & Howell	Ashton
SM01-026	House	ES Howell bet. Gifford & Fordham	Ashton
SM01-028	Ashton Cemetery	SWC of town.	Ashton
SM01-030	House	NS Easton, W of Howell	Ashton
SM01-031	House	NEC Easton & W. "Boundary"	Ashton
SM01-033	House	WS W. "Boundary", N of Easton	Ashton

SM01-036	House	NS Duncan, W. of Howell	Ashton
SM01-040	House	NEC Carleton & Ingram	Ashton
SM01-041	House	BOX 162	Ashton
SM01-043	House	BOX 43	Ashton
SM01-044	House	WS Ingram bet. Duncan & Easton	Ashton
SM01-045	House	BOX 53	Ashton
SM01-047	Polski, Tekla House	BOX 132	Ashton
SM01-052	House	WS Ingram, S of Gifford	Ashton
SM01-054	Garage/Gas Station	WS Kilburn at Railroad Street	Ashton
SM01-056	House	SWC Easton & Lamar	Ashton
SM01-057	Ashton Opera House	Central Avenue	Ashton
SM01-058	House	BOX 144	Ashton
SM01-065	House	BOX 24	Ashton
SM01-073	House	BOX 12	Ashton
SM01-074	House	BOX 136	Ashton
SM01-080	House	380 Easton	Ashton
SM01-081	House	SW crnr Ingram and Easton	Ashton
SM01-082	House	Ingram	Ashton
SM02-001	United Methodist Church	NEC Myoma & Douglas	Hazard
SM02-002	House	ES Myoma bet. Clinton & Douglas	Hazard
SM02-003	House	NWC Myoma & Clinton	Hazard
SM02-009	House	NWC Clinton & Market	Hazard
SM02-010	House	WS Market bet. Douglas & Clinton	Hazard
SM02-012	Commercial building	WS Market bet. Douglas & Jerold	Hazard
SM02-016	Commercial building	NEC Market & Jerold	Hazard
SM02-020	Faith Lutheran Church	SWC Munn & Jerold	Hazard
SM02-021	House	NS Millard, E. end of town.	Hazard
SM02-022	House	N. terminus of Morven	Hazard
SM02-023	School	Jerold at Munn NE corner	Hazard
SM02-024	House	Munn	Hazard
SM02-025	Restaurant/bar	Market and Douglas, SE corner	Hazard
SM03-001	Litchfield High School	N. terminus of Main	Litchfield
SM03-002	House	WS Main, N. of Mill	Litchfield
SM03-003	United Methodist Church	NWC Main & Mill	Litchfield
SM03-004	Christian Church	SEC Main & Mill	Litchfield
SM03-005	Commercial building	NEC Main & Mill	Litchfield
SM03-007	House	WS Main, N. of Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-009	House	ES Main bet. Campbell & Mill	Litchfield
SM03-010	House	SWC Campbell & Main	Litchfield
SM03-012	House	WS Main bet. Cowen & Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-013	House	ES Main bet. Cowen & Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-015	Commercial building	WS Main bet. Buford & Cowen	Litchfield
SM03-017	Commercial building	NEC Buford & Main	Litchfield
SM03-019	House	WS S. Main	Litchfield
SM03-024	House	SS HWY 2, W of S. Main	Litchfield

SM03-027	House	WS Howard bet. Cowen & Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-028	Church	NEC Campbell & Howard	Litchfield
SM03-031	House	NS Mill at Pustan	Litchfield
SM03-032	House	WS Pustan bet. Cowen & Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-033	House	SEC Campbell & Pustan	Litchfield
SM03-034	House	ES Pustan bet. Campbell & Cowen	Litchfield
SM03-035	House	ES Pustan bet. Cowen & Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-037	House	WS Pustan bet. Cowen & Buford	Litchfield
SM03-041	Manufacturing Building	SWC Pustan & Clifford	Litchfield
SM03-043	House	WS Gregory bet. Buford & Cowen	Litchfield
SM03-045	House	SEC Gregory & Campbell	Litchfield
SM03-046	House	WS Gregory at Mill	Litchfield
SM03-047	House	SS Cowen, E. of City Park	Litchfield
SM03-049	Bandstand	in City Park	Litchfield
SM03-054	Residence	NE crnr Grant and Bufford	Litchfield
SM03-055	Residence	NE crnr Grant and Cowen	Litchfield
SM03-056	Residence	512 Buford	Litchfield
SM03-057	Service/utility	Main and Buford SE crnr	Litchfield
SM03-058	Residence	Hill and Howard NW crnr	Litchfield
SM04-001	Jenner Park Gate	Corner of 1st & O	Loup City
SM04-005	House	NEC 3rd & O	Loup City
SM04-006	Loup City High School	NS O bet. 3rd & 4th	Loup City
SM04-008	House	NS O bet. 4th & 5th	Loup City
SM04-012	Commercial building	SS O bet. 5th & 6th	Loup City
SM04-016	Commercial building	SEC 7th & O	Loup City
SM04-017	Commercial Building	SWC 7th & O	Loup City
SM04-018	Bank	NWC 7th & O	Loup City
SM04-019	Commercial building	N. of NWC 7th & O	Loup City
SM04-020	Commercial building	W. of NWC 7th & O	Loup City
SM04-022	Commercial building	NS O bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-023	Commercial building	NS O bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-024	Commercial building	NS O bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-025	Commercial building	NS O bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-026	Commercial building	NS O bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-029	Commercial building	SS O bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-031	Frederick Hotel	NWC 8th & O	Loup City
SM04-035	Commercial building	SEC 9th & O	Loup City
SM04-036	Gas Station	NEC 9th & O	Loup City
SM04-037	Keystone Lumber	NWC 9th & O	Loup City
SM04-038	Commercial building	SS O bet. 9th & 10th	Loup City
SM04-048	House	SS P bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-050	House	SS P bet. 5th & 6th	Loup City
SM04-058	Knights of Columbus Hall	543 R	Loup City
SM04-060	House	NWC 6th & R	Loup City
SM04-061	House	SS R bet. 6th & 7th	Loup City



SM04-062	Wharton House	SS R bet. 6th & 7th	Loup City
SM04-063	House	711 R	Loup City
SM04-064	House	261 S. 8th	Loup City
SM04-065	John Ohlsen House	WS 7th, 2 blks S. of R	Loup City
SM04-066	Commercial building	ES 7th bet. O & P	Loup City
SM04-067	Commercial building	ES 7th bet. O & P	Loup City
SM04-068	Commercial building	SS P bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-070	Henry Ohlsen House	W of HWY, S. end of town.	Loup City
SM04-072	Wichman Dance Pavilion	E of Highway at P	Loup City
SM04-075	House	NWC 8th & N	Loup City
SM04-076	House	ES 8th bet. N & O	Loup City
SM04-077	House	NWC 7th & N	Loup City
SM04-078	Gas Station	SWC 7th & N	Loup City
SM04-079	Loup City Twp Carnegie Library	NEC 7TH & N	Loup City
SM04-080	Carl Amick Hospital	640 N	Loup City
SM04-082	Commercial building	ES 6th bet. N & O	Loup City
SM04-083	House	NEC 6th & N	Loup City
SM04-087	House	SEC 4th & I	Loup City
SM04-089	House	ES 5th bet. L & M	Loup City
SM04-090	House	WS 5th bet. L & M	Loup City
SM04-091	House	SWC 5th & L	Loup City
SM04-092	House	NWC 5th & L	Loup City
SM04-093	House	NEC 5th & L	Loup City
SM04-094	House	NEC 5th & K	Loup City
SM04-095	House	WS 5th bet. I & J	Loup City
SM04-096	House	NEC 6th & J	Loup City
SM04-097	House	SWC 6th & J	Loup City
SM04-098	House	SEC 6th & K	Loup City
SM04-099	House	ES 6th bet. K & L	Loup City
SM04-101	House	NEC 6th & L	Loup City
SM04-103	House	344 N. 6th	Loup City
SM04-104	First Baptist Church	NWC 6th & M	Loup City
SM04-105	House	NEC 6th & M	Loup City
SM04-109	House	SWC 7th & L	Loup City
SM04-110	House	NEC 7th & L	Loup City
SM04-112	Owens, William House	710 K	Loup City
SM04-114	House	638 N. 8th	Loup City
SM04-115	House	629 N. 8th	Loup City
SM04-117	House	NWC 8th & K	Loup City
SM04-118	House	WS 8th bet. K & L	Loup City
SM04-119	House	WS 8th bet. L & M	Loup City
SM04-124	House	250 N. 8th	Loup City
SM04-126	House	WS 9th bet. L & M	Loup City
SM04-127	House	353 N. 9th	Loup City
SM04-128	House	ES 9th bet. L & M	Loup City

SM04-134	Parsonage	NS M bet. 7th & 8th	Loup City
SM04-135	Sherman County Courthouse	630 O	Loup City
SM04-138	House	SE Corner of K and 9th	Loup City
SM04-141	House	SE Corner of L and 6th	Loup City
SM04-150	St. Josaphat's Catholic Church	704 N 9th St	Loup City
SM04-151	House	356 4th Avenue	Loup City
SM04-152	House	SW crn K and 4th Ave	Loup City
SM04-153	House	630 5th Ave	Loup City
SM04-155	House	608 5th Ave	Loup City
SM04-155	House	620 5th Ave	Loup City
SM04-156	House	553 5th ave	Loup City
SM04-157	House	539 5th Ave	Loup City
SM04-158	House	527 6th Ave	Loup City
SM04-159	School	block between J, I, 6 and 7	Loup City
SM04-160	House	J and 9th NW crnr	Loup City
SM04-161	House	520 n 9th	Loup City
SM04-162	House	NW crnr G and 10	Loup City
SM04-163	Central Nebraska Community Ac- tion Partnership; Clinic	NW crnr 6 and N	Loup City
SM04-164	House	N and 4th SW crnr	Loup City
SM04-165	Gas station	O and 5th NW crnr	Loup City
SM04-166	Quonset	O street north side, north of elevator	Loup City
SM04-167	House	8th St north of R on west side	Loup City
SM04-168	House	R Street, SE crnr	Loup City
SM05-003	House	WS Dorrance, S of 2nd	Rockville
SM05-006	City Hall	NS 2nd bet. Dorrance & Ley	Rockville
SM05-010	House	WS Ley, S of 1st	Rockville
SM05-013	Hall	NEC 1st & Ley	Rockville
SM05-014	Commercial building	NWC 1st & Ley	Rockville
SM05-016	House	ES Ley bet. 1st & 2nd	Rockville
SM05-017	House	ES Ley bet. 1st & 2nd	Rockville
SM05-019	Bank	NEC 2nd & Ley	Rockville
SM05-021	Post Office	N. of NWC 2nd & Ley	Rockville
SM05-024	House	SEC 3rd & Webster	Rockville
SM05-026	House	WS Webster bet. 2nd & 3rd	Rockville
SM05-027	House	WS Webster bet. 2nd & 3rd	Rockville
SM05-029	House	NEC 1st & Webster	Rockville
SM05-031	House	SWC 1st & Webster	Rockville
SM05-033	House	SEC 2nd & Railroad	Rockville
SM05-035	House	NEC 4th & Ley	Rockville
SM05-039	House	NWC 4th & Dorrance	Rockville
SM05-042	St. Mary's Catholic Church	SEC 5th & Fair	Rockville
SM05-043	House	NS 5th, E end of town	Rockville

# B

## Appendix B

### Properties Recommended Eligible

NeHSI#	Name	Area of Significance
SM00-071	Sherman County Fairgrounds	Crit. A: Diversion
SM00-126	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM00-129	Sherman County Reservoir	Thematic Water Resources Study
SM00-131	Farwell Irrigation District	Thematic Water Resources Study
SM01-001	Ashton School	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Education
SM01-003	Gas Station	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Transportation
SM01-017	Gas Station	Crit. A & C: Architecture: Transportation
SM01-024	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM01-030	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM01-054	Garage/Service Station	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Transportation
SM01-081	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM01-082	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM03-035	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM03-049	Bandstand	Crit. A: Diversion
SM04-001	Jenner Park	Crit. A: Diversion
SM04-006	Former Loup City High School	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Education
SM04-017	Former American State Bank	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-018	Former First National Bank	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-024	Former Barbershop	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-036	Gas Station	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Transportation
SM04-038	Service Station	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Transportation

SM04-070	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-075	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-082	Former Clinic	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-090	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-096	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-097	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-098	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-106	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-110	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-114	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-115	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-150	St. Josephat Catholic Church	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-152	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-156	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM04-159	School	Crit. A: Education
SM04-160	House	Crit. C: Architecture
SM05-019	Farmers State Bank	Crit. A & C: Architecture; Commerce
SM05-021	Rockville Post Office	Crit. C: Architecture



# G

## Glossary

**Art Moderne Style** (circa 1930-1950). An architectural style featuring industrial technology and streamlined simplicity. Features include smooth, rounded corners, horizontal massing, details in concrete, glass block, aluminum, and stainless steel.

**Association.** Link of a historic property with a historic event, activity, or person. Also, the quality of integrity through which a historic property is linked to a particular past time and place.

**Bay window.** A decorative window that projects out from the flat surface of an exterior wall, often polygonal in design. Bay windows are often seen on Queen Anne style buildings.

**Boom-Town** (circa 1850-1880). See false-front.

**Brackets.** Support members used under overhanging eaves of a roof, usually decorative in nature.

**Building.** A building is erected to house activities performed by people.

**Bungalow/Craftsman Style** (circa 1890-1940). An architectural style characterized by overhanging eaves, modest size, open porches with large piers and low-pitched roofs.

**Circa, Ca., or c.** At, in, or of approximately, used especially with dates.

**Clapboard.** Relatively long, thin boards that have a thick lower edge and a feathered, or tapered upper edge. The shape of the boards permits them to be overlapped horizontally. Clapboard is most commonly used as cladding material on vernacular form houses and their secondary buildings.

**Colonial Revival** (circa 1900-1940). An architectural style that relies heavily on a simple, classically derived entrance to indicate the style's architectural heritage. Colonial Revival houses often feature symmetrical forms and elevations, side gable roofs with dormers, columns, and shutters.

**Column.** A circular or square vertical support member.

**Commercial Vernacular Style** (circa 1860-1930). A form of building used to describe simply designed commercial buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which usually display large retail windows and recessed entrances on the first floor.

**Contemporary** (circa 1950-1980). A style that relies on minimal architectural detail and harmony with nature, through the integration of the building into the landscape. Contemporary architecture often features large expanses of glass, geometrical and angular shapes, and flat roofs. In some cases, Contemporary houses are modified Ranch and Split-level forms.

**Contributing** (National Register definition). A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities for which a property is significant. The resource was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity, or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

**Contributing** (NeHRSI definition). A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that meets the NeHRSI criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, and was present during the period of significance. A property that contributes to the NeHRSI is generally evaluated with less strictness than for an individual listing on the National Register, yet more strictness than a building which may “contribute” to a proposed National Register district.

**Cross-Gable** (circa 1860-1910). A vernacular building form typically two stories and square in plan with two identical roofs whose ridges intersect to produce a cruciform.

**Design.** Quality of integrity applying to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

**Dormer.** A vertical window projecting from the roof. Variations of dormer types can be based on the dormer’s roof form, for example shed dormer, gable dormers, and hipped dormers.

**Dutch Colonial Revival Style** (circa 1900-1940). A residential architectural style based on the more formal Georgian Revival style. This style is identified by its gambrel roof and symmetrical facade.

**Elevation.** Any single side of a building or structure.

**Eligible.** Properties that meet the National Park Service Criteria for nomination and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Evaluation.** Process by which the significance and integrity of a historic property are judged and eligibility for National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listing is determined.

**Extant.** Still standing or existing (as in a building, structure, site, and/or object).

**False-front** (circa 1850-1880). A vernacular building form, which is typically a one-and-one-half story front gable frame building with a square facade that extends vertically in front of the front-facing gable. This gives an entering visitor the sense of approaching a larger building. This form is often used in the construction of a first-generation commercial building, thus is also known as “boom-town.”

**Feeling.** Quality of integrity through which a historic property evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of past time and place.

**Fenestration.** The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

**Foursquare Style** (circa 1900-1930). Popularized by mail-order catalogues and speculative builders in the early twentieth century, this style is typified by its box-like massing, two-stories, hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, central dormers, and one-story porch spanning the front facade.

**Front Gable** (circa 1860-1910). The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which the triangular end of

the roof faces the street.

**Gable.** The vertical triangular end of a building from cornice or eaves to ridge.

**Gabled Ell** (circa 1860-1910). The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which two gabled wings are perpendicular to one another in order to form an “L”-shaped plan.

**Gable end.** The triangular end of an exterior wall.

**Gable roof.** A roof type formed by the meeting of two sloping roof surfaces.

**Gambrel roof.** A roof type with two slopes on each side.

**Hipped roof.** A roof type formed by the meeting of four sloping roof surfaces.

**Historic context.** The concept used to group related historic properties based upon a theme, a chronological period, and/or a geographic area.

**Integrity.** Authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic period.

**Italianate Style** (circa 1870-1890). A popular style for houses, these square, rectangular, or L-shaped, two-story buildings have low-pitched, hip roofs, with wide eaves usually supported by heavy brackets, tall narrow windows, and front porches. In some cases, the roof may be topped with a cupola.

**Location.** Quality of integrity retained by a historic property existing in the same place as it did during the period of significance.

**Materials.** Quality of integrity applying to the physical elements that were combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**Minimal Traditional** (circa 1935-1950). Loosely based on the Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival style, Minimal Traditional homes are small, unadorned cottage-sized structures characterized by a side gable

form with shallow eaves and a front-gable entry vestibule.

**Multiple Property Nomination.** The National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property documentation form nominates groups of related significant properties. The themes, trends, and patterns of history shared by the properties are organized into historic contexts. Property types that represent those historic contexts are defined within the nomination.

**National Register of Historic Places** (National Register). The official federal list of districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that are important in the prehistory or history of their community, state, or nation. The program is administered through the National Park Service by way of State Historic Preservation Offices.

**National Register of Historic Places Criteria.** Established criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register. See Chapter 2, Survey Methods and Results.

**Neo-Classical Style** (circa 1900-1920). An architectural style characterized by a symmetrical facade and usually includes a pediment portico with classical columns.

**Noncontributing** (National Register definition). A building, site, structure, or object that does not add to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which a property is significant. The resource was not pre-

sent during the period of significance; does not relate to the documented significance of the property; or due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity nor is capable of yielding important information about the period.

**Noncontributing** (NeHRSI definition). A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that does not meet the NeHRSI criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, or was not present during the period of significance. Noncontributing properties are not generally entered into, nor kept in, the NeHRSI inventory; however, exceptions do exist.

**Object.** An artistic, simple, and/or small-scale construction not identified as a building or structure; i.e. historic signs, markers, and monuments.

**One-story Cube** (circa 1870-1930). The vernacular form of a house, which is one-story and box-like in massing. Features generally include a low-hipped roof, a full front porch recessed under the roof, little ornamentation, and simple cladding, such as clapboard, brick, or stucco. Also known as a Prairie Cube.

**Period of Significance.** Span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the National Register criteria.

**Pony truss bridge** (circa 1880-1920). A low iron or steel truss, approximately 5 to 7 feet in height, located alongside and above the roadway surface. Pony truss bridges often range in span lengths of 20 to 100 feet.

**Portico.** A covered walk or porch supported by columns or pillars.

**Potentially eligible.** Properties that may be eligible for listing on the National Register pending further research and investigation.

**Property.** A building, site, structure, and/or object situated within a delineated boundary.

**Property type.** A classification for a building, structure, site, or object based on its historic use or function.

**Queen Anne Style** (circa 1880-1900). A style that enjoyed widespread popularity, particularly in the eastern portion of Nebraska. These houses are typically two stories tall, have asymmetrical facades, and steeply pitched rooflines of irregular shape. Characteristics include a variety of surface textures on walls, prominent towers, tall chimneys, and porches with gingerbread trim.

**Ranch** (circa 1945-1970). An architectural form that was the dominant postwar house type throughout the country. These houses have a one-story elongated main mass, asymmetrical facade, and low-pitched roof with wide eaves. Additional characteristic features include a large picture window on the facade, elevated windows, integrated planters, wrought-iron porch supports, wide chimneys, roof cutouts, and an attached garage or carport.

**Setting.** Quality of integrity applying to the physical environment of a historic property.

**Shed roof.** A roof consisting of one inclined plane.

**Side Gable** (circa 1860-1940). The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which the gable end of the roof is perpendicular to the street.

**Significance.** Importance of a historic property as defined by the National Register criteria in one or more areas of significance.

**Site.** The location of a prehistoric or historic event.

**Spanish Colonial Revival Style** (circa 1900-1920). These buildings, which have a southwestern flavor, show ma-



sonry construction usually covered with plaster or stucco, red clay tiled hipped roofs, and arcaded porches. Some facades are enriched with curvilinear and decorated roof lines.

**Structure.** Practical constructions not used to shelter human activities.

**Stucco.** A material usually made of Portland cement, sand, and a small percentage of lime and applied in a plastic state to form a hard covering for exterior walls.

**Turret.** A little tower that is an ornamental structure and projects at an angle from a larger structure.

**Two-story Cube** (circa 1860-1890). The vernacular form, generally for a house, which is a two-story building, box-like in massing, with a hipped roof, near absence of surface ornament, and simple exterior cladding such as brick, clapboard, or stucco.

**Vernacular.** A functional, simplistic building or structure without stylistic details. Vernacular form buildings were usually designed by the builder, not by an architect.

**Workmanship.** Quality of integrity applying to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture, people, or artisan.



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